

REVIEW OF THE YEAR
12 months of elation, tears and beginnings
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PANIC PARTY TIME
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NEW YEAR'S DAY
NEW YEAR HEALTH RESOLUTIONS
Dr THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

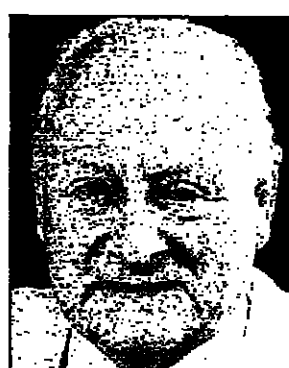


PLUS JUMBO CROSSWORD
Test your word skills

Elton John becomes knight of pop

Honours for the teaching profession

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR



Finney: "thrilled to bits" with knighthood

THERE is a knighthood for a headteacher, another becomes a dame and many more receive awards in the New Year Honours today as Tony Blair uses the awards system in the campaign to improve school standards and restore the reputation of teaching.

The Prime Minister has decided to focus his first full-length list on education, with 58 awards at all levels from university principal to street-crossing patrolman, and he says today that he is honouring "not only the best of the profession but the profession itself". The move comes after Mr Blair's promise soon after the election to root out bad teachers but also to give a fresh deal to the good ones.

However, Mr Blair follows his predecessors in recognising a long list of celebrities from sport, entertainment and literature, with, as widely predicted, a knighthood for the rock singer Elton John. The star's singing of *Candle in the Wind* at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, struck a chord with the public and the record has so far raised £20 million for her memorial fund. Many who played a part in the funeral, including the Welsh Guards officer who organised the carrying of the coffin and the driver of the hearse from Westminster to the Althorp burial ceremony, are singled out for awards in today's list.

Elton John, 50, whose work for AIDS charities is also acknowledged by the award, has risen from the depths of drugs and drink addiction to

become accepted by the Establishment. The former Reg Dwight said last night that his joy at the knighthood was "immeasurable". He follows in the footsteps of Sir Cliff Richard and Sir Paul McCartney, becoming the third knight of British pop.

He is joined from the entertainment world by Paula

Clark, the biggest selling British woman singer (CBE); Annette Crosbie, who plays the long-suffering Mrs Meldrew in television's *One Foot in the Grave* (OBE); Deborah Kerr, 76, who played opposite Yul Brynner in *The King and I* (CBE); and Nicholas Garland, the cartoonist (OBE). Michael Gambon, the actor and star of *The Singing Detective*, is knighted, as are Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction writer and inspiration of the film *2001*; Richard Rodney Bennett, the composer; and Terence Frost, the painter. Alan Howard, who has played six Shakespearean kings, is appointed CBE.

Heading the sports honours is a knighthood at last for the long-retired footballer Tom Finney, who with Stanley Matthews formed the finest wing pairing England has had. Now 75, he was thrilled to bits, he said last night. From the cricketing past there is an MBE for Alf Gover, 89, the former Surrey and England fast bowler who later ran a cricketing school.

Mark Hughes, the Chelsea and former Manchester United forward, and Jim Leighton, the veteran Scotland goalkeeper, are appointed MBE and there are OBEs for Jenny Pittman, the horseracing trainer, Tessa Sanderson, the javelin thrower, and Martin Johnson, captain of the victorious British Lions touring team to South Africa. Jack Rowell, the former England rugby coach, is appointed OBE.

Peter Goss, one of Britain's most experienced racing sail-



Lynda Roberts, the determined teacher who helped a child to come to terms with family disaster, is appointed MBE

ors, is appointed MBE. Last year he turned back in heavy seas during the Vendee Globe non-stop round-the-world race to rescue a fellow competitor, Raphael Dinelli.

There is an OBE for Andy Green, the squadron leader who drove the Thrust supersonic car into the record books in the Nevada Desert last October. He pushed the black ten-ton vehicle through the sound barrier to its limit,

setting an official average of 763.035 mph.

Lynda Roberts, 44, the dedicated and determined teacher who helped a child to come to terms with the murder of her mother and sister is appointed MBE. Mrs Roberts was instrumental in helping Josie Russell, now ten, to recover her powers of speech after the child was traumatised in a hammer attack during which her mother Lin and younger

sister Megan, six, were killed as the three of them were walking home from school.

There is a CBE for Michael Grade, former chief executive of Channel 4. Alan Freeman, 70, one of the early disc-jockey pioneers, is appointed MBE. There is a knighthood for Professor John Pattison, head of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and an expert on BSE.

Following Labour's practice

in opposition, Mr Blair gives no strictly political honours. However, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, is appointed privy councillor. Chris Patten, former Governor of Hong Kong and former Tory Cabinet minister, becomes a peer.

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Loyalist Wright buried by men in black

By AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BILLY WRIGHT was buried yesterday and Portadown, his home town, was brought to a standstill by the men in black leather jackets he spawned.

By midday the streets were deserted, shops shut. A printed A4 flyer had been sent to all the businesses requesting them to close "as a mark of respect" for Wright. "Your co-operation is noted and appreciated," said the letter signed Loyalist Volunteer Force, a terrorist group led by Wright.

"What choice do we have?" said one shopkeeper. "If they can't stop people killing each other in prison, then there's little chance of protection for me and my family on the street."

Police had been told there would be no paramilitary trappings at the funeral and stayed away, maintaining a discreet and distant presence down side streets. Troops were on patrol on the perimeter of the Armagh town, which for the past three years has ground to a halt during the July stand-off between Catholic residents and Orangemen marching from Drumree church.

At midday sharp, buses stopped running, taxi drivers went home and shopkeepers pulled down their shutters. Then the LVF men in thin black ties took over the streets, patrolling with walkie-talkies. They corralled the journalists, threatening them with a bullet in the back of the head if they moved from their spot or photographed the faces of mourners.

From Brownstown Road, a quarter of a mile from the Wright home on the fiercely loyalist Brownstown estate, we were watched over by three tarmac men in black leather jackets as the Rev William Gray, a Free Presbyterian

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Election 'rigged'

President Moi has accused the Kenyan electoral commission of rigging the general election held this week. Mr Moi, whose Kumu party was widely tipped to win the poll, accused the commission of making sure that there was a shortage of ballot papers in areas which traditionally supported his party. Page 15

George warning

The economy has been growing at an unsustainable rate and will have to slow to ensure steady growth, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, said. Page 23

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Byline The Times overseas	
Australia \$6.50; Belgium 8 Pts 100	
Canada \$1.50; Canada Pts 125	
Denmark 12.20; Denmark Dkr 14.00	
France 6.50; France F 16.00	
Germany DM 4.50; Germany 90p	
Greece Dr 350; Greece 5.50	
Italy L 1,450; Italy 17.40	
Madagascar 350; Madagascar 450	
Malaysia M 3.50; Malaysia 4.50	
Monaco M 3.50; Monaco 4.50	
Norway Kr 25.00; Norway 3.25	
Portugal Esc 200; Portugal 200	
Sweden Skr 25.00; Sweden 3.25	
Switzerland Sfr 2.00; Switzerland 2.00	
Tunisia Dln 3.200; Tunisia 3.200	
USA \$1.50	



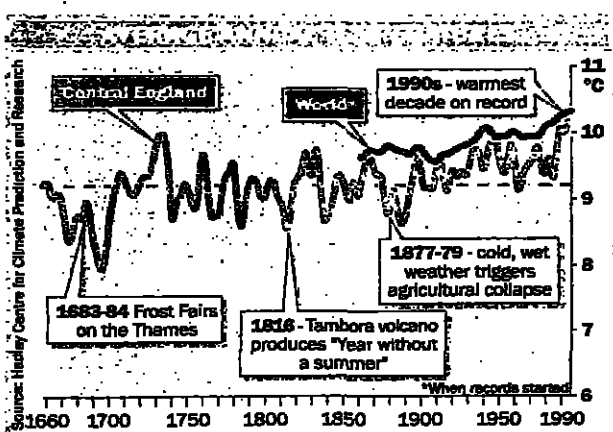
1997 was the third warmest year recorded in three centuries

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THIS year has been the third warmest in England since records began more than 300 years ago, the Meteorological Office said yesterday. Analysis shows that the mean Central England Temperature for 1997 was 10.57C (approximately 52F). This is the temperature measured at four places - Malvern in Worcestershire, Rothamsted in Hertfordshire, Squires Gate, near Blackpool, and Ringway, near Manchester - and averaged over the whole year.

It is the longest-running temperature record in the world, dating from 1659. Since then, the Met Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research says, only two years have been hotter - 1990, with a mean of 10.63C and 1949 (10.62C).

Dr Paul Mason, Chief Scientist at the Met Office, said: "We are becoming increasingly confident that recent warm-



ing on a global scale is due in part to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases." Rainfall in England and Wales was lower than normal, but not exceptionally so. Until yesterday there had been 844mm of rain, 94 per cent of the long-term average of 896mm.

Over their 300-year history temperatures vary greatly from year to year. A smoother record is obtained by taking

20-year rolling averages, as in the graph, but this still shows wide discrepancies, with some notably cold spells and some warmer ones.

Exceptionally cold winters, such as that of 1683-4, when the Thames froze solid and Frost Fairs were held, are reflected by dips in the rolling average. But a single crazy year like 1740, the coldest on record, contributes only a

small dip because surrounding years were not so cold. The average temperature in 1740 was 6.8C, compared with 9.2C for 1739 and 9.3C for 1741.

The 1810s were a cool decade, marked in 1816 by the 'year without a summer', generally attributed to the eruption of the volcano Tambora in Indonesia.

In England, says Dr David Parker of the Met Office, average annual temperatures depend strongly on wind direction. Westerly winds during the winter, the normal pattern, will produce warmer weather. But from time to time persistently high pressure blocks the westerlies as in 1947 and 1963.

This year, he says, only avoided becoming the hottest on record in England because of a cold spell at the beginning of January.

□ The new year is expected to start with gales, probably less severe than those over Christmas.

Forecast, page 22

Gagging order put on Sun

THE Attorney-General, John Morris QC, yesterday obtained an injunction banning *The Sun* from naming the Cabinet minister's son at the centre of drug-dealing allegations.

The move came after the arrest on Monday of Dawn Alford, *The Mirror* reporter who broke the story.

A spokesman for the Treasury Solicitor's office said: "The basis of the Attorney-General's application, which was upheld by the judge, was in summary that publication of the young person's name would be a contempt of court, in that there is a likelihood that it would interfere with the course of justice."

The Attorney-General's office added: "The Attorney was acting independently of Government and in his capacity as guardian of the public interest."

A second 17-year-old has been arrested by police investigating the allegation of cannabis dealing by the minister's son.

They also earn who only stand and serve

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON
AND KATHERINE BERGEN

ANYONE at a new year party tonight would do well to observe how the waiter balances a tray of canapés in one hand and pours champagne with the other, all the while maintaining a smile. Then they should go home and practise to do likewise.

For those prepared to act as waiters on New Year's Eve 1999, the rewards will be enormous. Demand is far outstripping supply, and a half-decent waiter ready to desert family and friends can expect to earn up to £1,000

for his night's work. Dance bands with a passable *Lady in Red* in their songbook will also be in the money, charging £15,000 for one night against their usual £2,000.

In London alone, where a normal new year party might see about 10,000 catering staff in action, demand is expected to swell the number tenfold in 1999. A no-frills wipe waiter who will earn £5 to £10 an hour this year can expect at least double that plus bonuses running into hundreds of pounds. For head waiters, chief bouncers or head chefs, the rewards will mean that they can start thinking about the Seychelles

as a holiday destination in January 2000.

Since the bigger corporate events demand a ratio of one member of catering staff to 15 guests, party organisers are building the much higher costs into their estimates and passing them on to their clients. William Bartholemew, who runs Juliana's, said: "There has been a lot of hype about 1999, but there is no staff. It is hard to get even those who are available to commit. Disc jockeys don't seem to want to work so, no dancing."

The problem is exacerbated by the sheer volume of celebrations in Brit-

ain, where millions of tourists are expected to see in the new millennium at Greenwich, home of the prime meridian. Every big venue in the country is already booked up, including some that have not even opened, such as the 75,000-seater Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

But, despite all the bustle, a survey published yesterday by Mumm Champagne reveals that 28 per cent of Britons intend to spend New Year's Eve 1999 at home in front of the television while another 20 per cent are planning a foreign holiday to escape "Dorset Fever".



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Harassment law gets the bird in police swoop

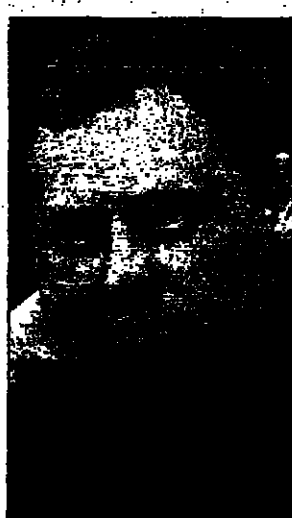
Paul Wilkinson reports on a garden dispute that put a neighbour in court

A BUSINESSMAN was arrested and held in police cells for three hours after trying to deter his neighbour's pigeons from his garden. Martin Ward was charged under new anti-harassment laws, accused of singing *Come Fly With Me* at the top of his voice, throwing a ball about and erecting a one-eyed plastic owl.

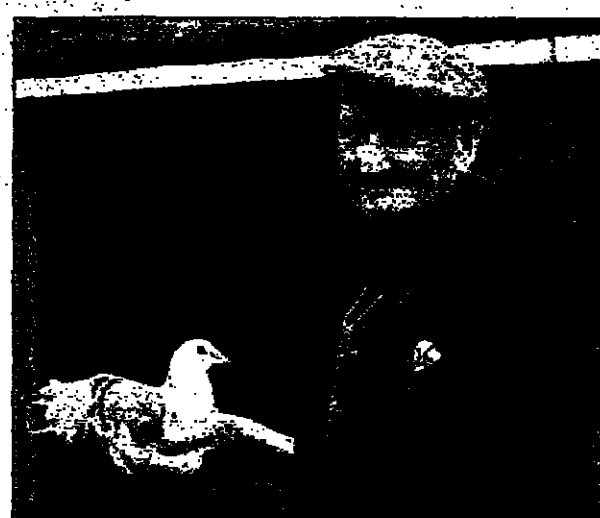
Mr Ward, 35, appeared before magistrates under the Harassment Act 1997. But after one court appearance, the Crown Prosecution Service has now dropped the case. Police have admitted that the new law is causing problems.

Yesterday, the enmity seemed to be continuing over the garden fence in Rawmarsh, South Yorkshire, where Mr Ward's four-bedroom detached home stands next to the council bungalow of Tom Thornton, 82, an old soldier. Mr Thornton said: "He's a complete idiot. If I had my way, I'd be given six months' National Service for what he's done to me."

Mr Ward, and his parents Helena, 64, and Bryan, 67, have lived in their house for 31 years. It's half an acre of garden is Mr Ward's particular joy, and he spends much



Martin Ward, left, and his neighbour Tom Thornton, who said: "If I had my way, he would be given six months' National Service for what he's done"



time keeping it well-maintained. Nine years ago, Mr Thornton and his wife moved in next door. Mr Thornton keeps 22 pigeons.

Mr Ward said: "They drop mess on our washing, dive bomb us when we have barbecues and delight in swooping low over the lawn. Gardening is my main hobby and it is just being ruined by these pigeons."

"I work six days a week in the family greengrocery business and I have taken only one week's holiday since I left school. I have asked my neighbour to do something about the pigeons, but he refuses and abuses me."

"My mother has a phobia about birds. With all the problems, I saw this £15 plastic owl in a store. It is supposed to work as a deterrent. I hung it from a piece of string on an 8ft scaffolding

pole and stuck it in the lawn which is about 15ft from next door. It didn't work, but the next thing I knew the police called round and accused me of firing a gun at his property. I have never even had a gun, but I was given a warning."

"Then, about six weeks later, the police came again. I was accused of harassing Mr Thornton's pigeons with the owl and upsetting him. The police told me to take it down

or they would arrest me. I took it down, but three weeks later I was arrested and taken to Rotherham police station and kept in a cell for three hours."

"I was accused of harassing my neighbour and his pigeons with the owl, throwing a ball and singing in the garden. I couldn't believe it. I have never said a bad word to him. I've never had even a parking ticket in my life. Apart from putting up the owl, I can't see what I've done wrong. It seems the police have listened only to his side of the story."

Mr Thornton said: "My pigeons are of enormous sentimental value to me. They were getting frightened and I lost a couple. They don't cause any problems. Some of the birds flying around here cause me problems, and they are not mine."

"Mr Ward put up the owl and has been waving sticks and frightened my pigeons to death. He has caused me a lot of worry. Even yesterday, he was out in the garden throwing a ball up at my birds."

PC John Carr, who arrested Mr Ward, admitted that prosecutors "were still trying to find their feet" with the new law.



Unwise move: the one-eyed plastic owl which Mr Ward hung on his lawn

Bishop's son updates mystery plays with down-and-out Jesus

A BISHOP'S son has written a 20th-century version of the medieval mystery plays in which Jesus is a homeless beggar. St Peter is a mugger who swears repeatedly. Mary Magdalene is a prostitute and St Matthew is a commodities broker who lives in Kensington.

Edward Kemp, 32, son of the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Eric Kemp, has deleted the devil from *The Mysteries*, to be performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican next month. He has also taken out all the anti-Jewish comments made by characters as they enact the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, making it instead a work about conflicts between believers and unbelievers.

Mr Kemp, 32, who describes himself as a "devout atheist", has warned his father, a leading traditionalist who opposes the ordination of women, priests, that his five-hour production is shot through with sex, violence and swearing. "I pointed out to him that sex and violence is in the Bible anyway, and explained why the swearing is in, and he seemed to understand." Last night Dr Kemp said he was aware of the play, but refused to comment.

His son, the youngest of five children and a former winner of the Texaco oil company's most promising young playwright award, has been working on *The Mysteries* for two years. After a successful run earlier this year with the RSC at Stratford, it was decided to rewrite the production, making

There is no part for the devil, but one of the apostles is a commodity broker, reports Ruth Gledhill

ing the character of Jesus less "prissy". The setting was changed from the Middle East to modern London.

Mr Kemp, a former cathedral chorister, said: "We have cut the devil. And there is no nonsense about fallen angels and people dressing up as snakes with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden."

He described how, in one scene, titled *The King's Sin*, King David initiates a relationship with Bathsheba which is tantamount to rape. In the New Testament, Peter is still a fisherman, but is down on his luck, swears constantly and meets Jesus when he tries to mug him to pay for medical treatment for his wife.

The biblical character of the tax collector becomes Matthew, a wealthy commodities broker from Kensington who goes on to write a false account of Jesus's life. The homeless Jesus meets him when he sleeps on his doorstep. He meets Mary Magdalene in a late-night bar, where she is entertaining a client.

without money, without a house, without a change of suit. In the play he will look like someone who lives on the money he can get from people.

"The message of the piece is simple, that we are all responsible for each other and the planet. We are trying to put the audience in a place where, when they leave the theatre, they will not know whether the next person who comes up to them — whether that person is an usher, beggar or waiter — is divine."

He told the *Jewish Chronicle* that he had removed anti-Jewish references because they had seemed "awfully insulting". In the medieval plays, there are a number of Jewish characters who rejoice in the fact that they kill Jesus. That was the first stuff that went.

"He described the play as "grim dark and nasty", but profoundly optimistic at the end. Although he no longer describes himself as Christian, he said he was fascinated by faith. "I am very happy for other people to believe in God," he said. "He just isn't any use to me."

Mystery plays, a medieval phenomenon based on the stories of the Bible and the eucharistic liturgy, fell into decline after the 16th century. They have recently experienced a resurgence, thanks largely to the success of the Oberammergau passion play, enacted every ten years in Upper Bavaria.

The Mysteries opens in mid-January and will run until April.

Police dig up garden in search for mother

By Richard Duce

POLICE began removing floorboards and digging up the garden of a house yesterday in their search for a 23-year-old mother of four who vanished three days before Christmas. Vincent Shilton, the boyfriend of Liza Blunt, who has not been seen since December 22, was being interviewed.

Mr Shilton, 29, went to police to report his girlfriend missing and told them she had failed to return from a trip to buy her children presents in Nottingham. Yesterday the investigation was referred to the major crime unit and a superintendent put in charge.



Liza Blunt last seen Christmas shopping

Earlier this week Mr Shilton made a tearful public appeal for his girlfriend to get in touch. He said that on the day she disappeared he gave her £50 and she left their house in Bestwood Park, Nottingham, at around 10am to

four children — Jade, five, Dale, three, Daniel, two, and five-month-old Kylie, her child by Mr Shilton. Mr Shilton, her partner for two years, went to Ox Close Lane police station voluntarily.

The couple's three-bedroom house was cordoned off yesterday while officers conducted forensic tests. The children were being cared for by relatives.

Mr Shilton said earlier this week: "We just want her home. Christmas has been awful."

He added: "I'm really worried about her. I just want her to get in touch and let us know she is all right. I've been everywhere looking for her and will continue driving round, trying to spot her. Otherwise the kids and I just sit by the phone. There's no explanation for her disappearance. We never rowed and are desperate for her to get in touch."

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Lost in the passage of time



Andrew Cotterell outside 18th-century Southill House with his wife

Simon de Bruxelles reports on a mystery that begins underneath a country house

THE secrets of a Somerset country house have turned into an Enid Blyton adventure for the new owner and his children. A series of clues have led to a mysterious network of tunnels, and no one knows where they lead.

The first clue for Andrew Cotterell and his wife Tracey was the long-forgotten memoir of a 19th-century servant, Edwin Cox, whose recollections of life at Southill House included being sent down to explore a tunnel uncovered by workmen when he was nine.

As the Cotterells wondered where the tunnels might be, a cow grazing in the field beyond their croquet lawn stumbled across a previously unknown passageway when it caved in. It leads from a sealed entrance in the cellar.

Now the underground maze is fascinating historians, the Cotterells and their sons, aged seven, five and three. Mr Cotterell said: "Whenever their friends come round, they head straight for the cellars to explore. As far as they are concerned, it's like something out of an Enid Blyton adventure."

The £12 million mansion, built in the 18th century, stands in ten acres of grounds on an estate between Frome and Shepton Mallet. It was earlier the country seat of a family linked with the Duke of Monmouth, who tried to claim the throne in 1685. This holds out the possibility that the tunnels were used as escape passages. Their original use may have been as medieval culverts or for storage access.

Mr Cotterell, who runs a computer company, bought the 15-bedroom mansion two years ago. He was aware of two winding tunnels leading off the vaulted cellars which appeared to be far older than the house, and there are signs of other passageways still to be found.

The most recently discovered

passage has been sealed until it can be properly explored. Built of stone, it is about 5ft high with a floor of beaten earth, pitted with marks of dripping water. Mr Cotterell said: "A little way beyond where it caved in, the tunnel has been sealed with stone. Like the others, it appears to have been built prior to the main house."

"There is evidence of medieval arched doorways and windows in the cellar, and it's possible that the present property was built on the site of something far older. I intend to explore further, even if it means taking a sledge hammer to the obstruction."

The estate was the country seat of the Sudleys, whose archives record that Southill was visited by Monmouth in the summer of 1685, after his return from exile. The rebellion of the illegitimate son of Charles II ended in bitter defeat, but initially he had received considerable support in the West Country, where, in a short time, he had raised an army of 7,000 men.

After Monmouth's execution, King James II exacted terrible revenge on the Duke's followers. He dispatched the notorious Judge Jeffreys, the



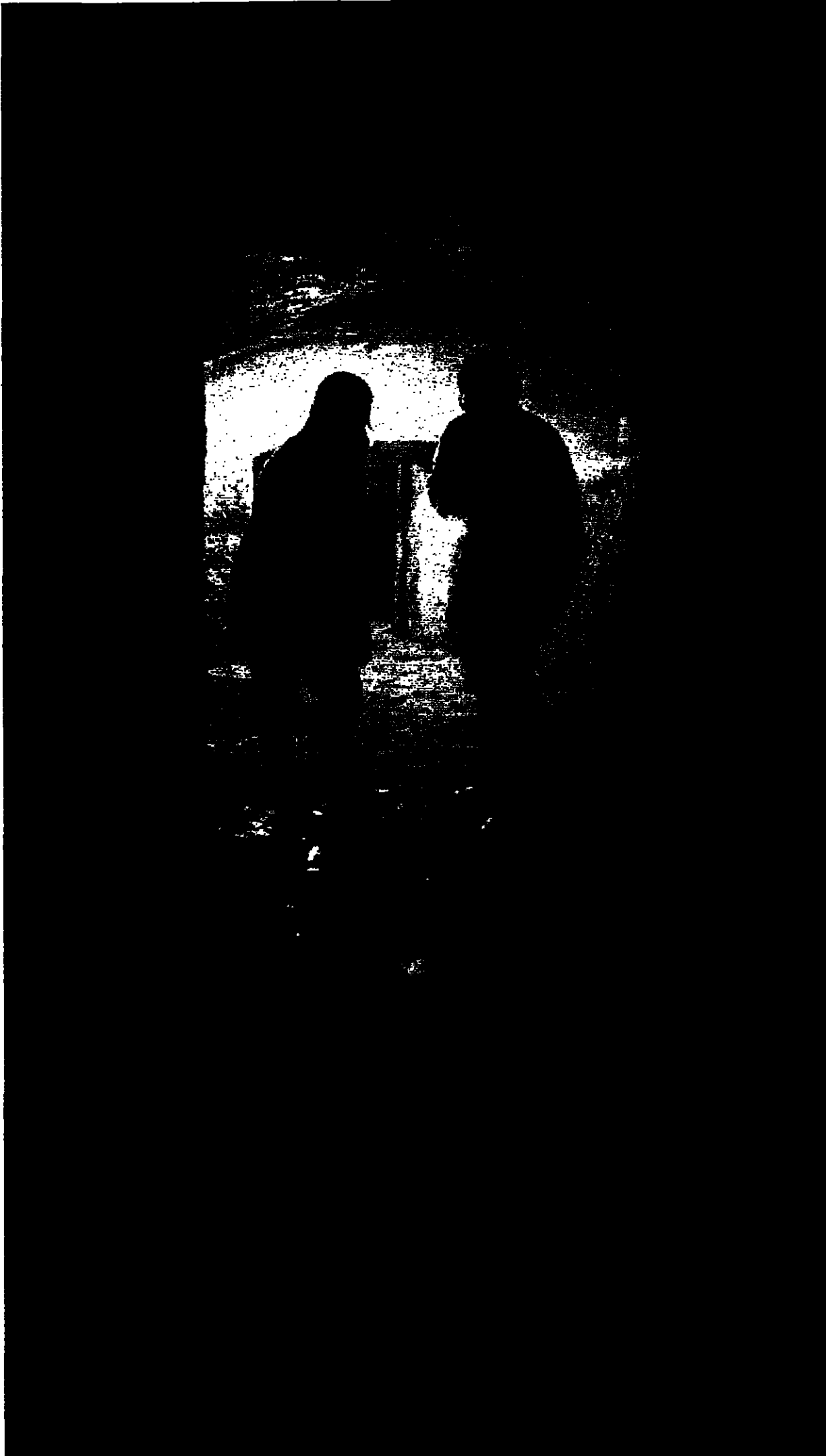
Monmouth's supporters paid a high price

Hanging Judge, to oversee the Bloody Assizes. More than 250 people were hung, drawn and quartered. A further 850 were deported to forced labour on the plantations of the West Indies. The brutality of the reprisals left a lingering resentment and led, indirectly, to the king's overthrow during the Glorious Revolution three years later.

Rumours persist that the tunnels under Southill were bolt holes for supporters of the Duke of Monmouth to flee through, but many Storde family papers have been lost and no record of the tunnels' original purpose remains. Southill's facade was rebuilt by the architect John Wood the Younger, responsible for some of the Georgian buildings in Bath, including the Royal Crescent. Little remains of the original property and there is no record of the site having been occupied before the 17th century.

Robin Bush, a Somerset historian and a member of Channel 4's *Time Team*, said: "There is something in the British psyche which makes us fascinated by underground features, whether they exist or not. In most cases, ancient tunnels are nothing more exciting than medieval drains but these ones certainly sound like they warrant further investigation."

The Southill tunnels have caught the attention of historians from Frome, five miles away, who have been investigating their own warren of underground passages. There is evidence of passages under the town linking several older buildings, but their purpose is obscure. One local historian, David MacGregor, said: "Several people believe that they were medieval culverts but, as far as I am concerned, they are far too extensive for such a simple explanation. The labour and expense that went into them would have been phenomenal."



Through the past darkly: the Cotterells inside one tunnel. Below, Andrew emerges near the croquet lawn.

Servant boy feared ghost in tunnel

GHOSTLY legends also surround Southill House, and receive a mention in the unpublished "record book" of Edwin Cox, the former servant. It appears that he was sent into the tunnel because others were too afraid.

He wrote the memoir in his old age for his descendants, who now live in the United States and who gave a copy to a previous owner of the estate. Born in 1838, Cox recalled ten years he spent as a servant at the house. He began work at the age of seven, carrying vegetables in the kitchen gardens for sixpence a week.

Although there were numerous ghostly stories associated with the house, he says that he was never afraid of the supernatural until the day an ancient vault was discovered in the grounds.

"I am not superstitious and was

generally on hand to enter in some unused room, cellar or unexplored vault when no one else would enter," he recalled. "Once, some labourers were excavating in the park about a quarter of a mile from the house when they came upon some brick work several feet below the surface which on opening proved to be a very large vault."

The old Baron [Southill's owner] was immediately sent for, but neither he nor anyone else could form any idea of what was down there. And no one could be found to satisfy their curiosity on the subject and good reason why."

"One of the old Barons had committed suicide and, his spirit becoming troublesome, had been banished by 12 clergymen and walked up in one of the vaults below the cellars. Anyway, no one could be

persuaded down but the offer of a half crown overcame my fear. Together with a lighted candle, I started on my voyage of discovery."

"The place was a passage large enough to drive a load of hay through, arched over the top and a clear stream of water ran through the centre. I started in the direction of the house, scrutinizing every object that lay in my road, not knowing but that I might fall into some hole or trap, but I found nothing of consequence excepting some old pieces of furniture and bottles, the like of which no one there had ever seen before."

"I kept along for what seemed to me an endless distance, until I was stopped by a massive stone wall and while trying to find an opening, I accidentally dropped my candle. Having no matches, I was left in total darkness. I was thoroughly fright-

ened and the thought of the terrible tale referred to above by no means mended matters. I groped my way back by the wall to the opening where they were all waiting with the greatest anxiety, fearing something had befallen me."

The boy was sent back with a hammer to hit the wall while his employer listened in the cellars. "As soon as he was satisfied that it led to the cellars, he had it closed up without exploring the other end, and so I was the only person living who had been down in the vault, and I don't think it has ever been opened since."

Cox records that two ladies in their 70s told him that their fathers had talked about a secret tunnel leading from the house. He said: "It was supposed to have been used as a hiding place, also a means of escape in the time of the old feudal wars."



If you really want to go to hell, take the M25

By RICHARD DUCE

A SURVEY of traffic blackspots will raise few eyebrows among frustrated drivers whose route takes in the M25. London's orbital "relief" road is now officially the most congested in Britain.

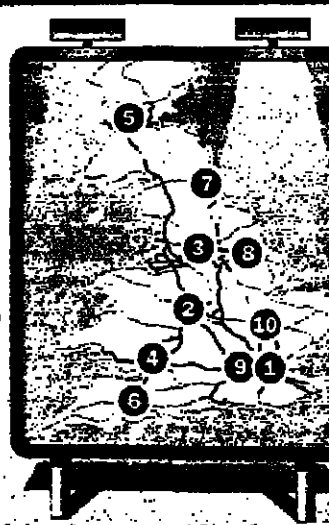
Three stretches of the M25, opened by Margaret Thatcher in 1986, head a list of "roads to hell" from a Road Haulage Association survey of its members, followed by the M5-M6 interchange northwest of Birmingham. Steven Norris, the former Conservative Transport Minister and now director-general of the associ-

ation, said yesterday that the list showed investment in the national road network was desperately needed.

Mr Norris said: "As an organisation we are all for the 'greening' of transport, with more freight on to rail and more car users turning to public transport. But the inescapable fact is that, if we are to move towards an environmentally sustainable and economically competitive transport system, we have got to put investment into the road network." He added that the Department of Transport had

WARNING: BRITAIN'S WORST TRAFFIC JAMS AHEAD

1. The M25 between J11 and J12 in Surrey, at J25 in Hertfordshire and between J28 and J29 near Stevenage in Essex
2. The M5/M6 interchange, northwest of Birmingham
3. The M62 between Manchester and Leeds
4. The M4 around Newport, between J23 and J30
5. The M50 between Glasgow and Stirling
6. The A30 between Exeter and Honiton
7. The A1 western bypass, between Newcastle upon Tyne and Washington
8. The A63 from J38 on the M62 east of Hull docks and Hylton Bridge
9. The Hanger Lane gyratory system between the A40 and the A406 in West London
10. The A14 between Huntingdon and the M5



been the first to bear the brunt of cuts when money had to be found for other government spending plans.

Confederation of British Industry estimates put the annual cost of traffic jams, in lost time, wasted fuel and increased pollution, at £15 billion a year, Mr Norris said. Increased traffic, particularly on the M62 and M50, was the result of an improving economy in the North and Scotland.

Uninvited party guests put detectives back in uniform

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO more officers have been transferred from the "zero tolerance" police unit at the centre of a corruption inquiry — for allegedly taking suspended officers under investigation to the Middlesbrough CID Christmas party.

The two detective constables have been returned to uniform duties with the Cleveland force. Detective Constables Lou Matthews and Ben Houchen have denied they invited the officers to the party in contravention of a order from their district commander, Chief Superintendent Graham Maxwell.

His latest action brings to seven the number of Middles-

brough CID officers either suspended or moved back to uniform since the force launched Operation Lancet to investigate allegations of drugs for confessions and other corrupt practices.

The first to go were Detective Constables Brendan Whitehead and Sean Allen, suspended after claims that they supplied heroin to a prisoner in exchange for confessions. Andy Shepherd, another DC, was also suspended.

Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, the head of CID and pioneer of the "zero tolerance" policy, was then suspended, accused of leaking

information to the media and "alleged activity which could be construed as criminal". He strenuously denies the allegations. Earlier this month his right-hand man, Detective Sergeant John McPherson, was put back on the beat in the neighbouring division of Stockton.

When DCs Whitehead, Allen and Shepherd turned up at the Christmas party in the Potter's Bar disco in Middlesbrough last week, Mr Maxwell, who was also there, was reported to be furious. He had issued specific instructions that none of the suspended officers should attend.

The party was attended by

more than 80 people, including Detective Superintendent Adrian Roberts, Mr Mallon's temporary replacement, and CID, uniform and civilian staff. One guest, who did not want to be named, said: "When the three officers turned up, they were well received. However, Maxwell and Roberts looked stony-faced. They weren't very happy."

The two officers were called to a face-to-face meeting with Mr Maxwell the next day and told they were back in uniform. Yesterday a police spokesman confirmed that Matthews and Houchen had been removed from the CID

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer deaths down over 10 years

Deaths from cancer fell over the past year to their lowest level for ten years, according to the Cancer Research Campaign. The fall is despite a corresponding rise in the number of people developing cancer. Better treatments, detection and screening have helped in a fall of more than 5,000 deaths since the early 1990s, including reductions in lung cancer and breast cancer. However, skin and prostate cancer deaths remained causes for concern. John Toy, of the campaign, said: "Although it is too early to predict a consistent trend, these figures are very encouraging."

Everyman Appeal, page 6

Fall from flyover

A woman firefighter was in a serious condition in hospital yesterday after falling 50ft from a flyover while trying to rescue two victims of a road crash. Sarah Cotton, 30, was giving first aid to the trapped female passenger of a Blood Transfusion Service lorry on the flyover near Shoreham, West Sussex.

Rail alert cash

More than 1,000 people forced from their homes for two days because of a chemical alert have been offered £50 compensation by freight train operators. An inquiry has begun into the derailment at Cadwinton, South Wales, on Saturday of a wagon containing 60 tonnes of inflammable material.

Mixed schools

Seven out of ten parents want a mixed school for their children, according to an NOP survey of 1,000 people for *Bella* magazine. However, 9 per cent of parents in Yorkshire and Scotland favoured single-sex schools, compared with almost 25 per cent of parents in East Anglia, the South and the South-East.

Burglars alarmed

Burglars dialled 999 after becoming trapped in a flat in Bradford they were trying to rob. Firemen rescued one trapped on a first-floor window ledge while colleagues battered down the front door. Three men pushed past just before the police arrived. They fled empty-handed as the flat was unoccupied.

Lifeboat rescues

More than half of all lifeboat rescues in 1997 were of people in pleasure craft or windsurfers. An average of three people were rescued each day, according to figures from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. A survey of sea users showed that one in five did not check the weather forecast before they set sail.

Grave mystery

Archaeologists are trying to find out why some of the graves found at a Saxon dig in Southampton point the wrong way. Four are Christian burials, aligned east to west. But another is the opposite way round and a sixth faces north. One theory is that they are earlier pagan burials.

Stylish serpent

A man found a 2 ft snake in his jumper. Mike Doran, 40, a hospital cleaner, from Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, was rescued by his partner Diame Palin, 36, who trapped it in a bucket and called the police. They returned the harmless Florida king snake, called Sally, to the previous tenant.

me

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer deaths down over 10 years

Mail from Rome

Rail alert

Mixed school

Sharders am

Guests put in uniform

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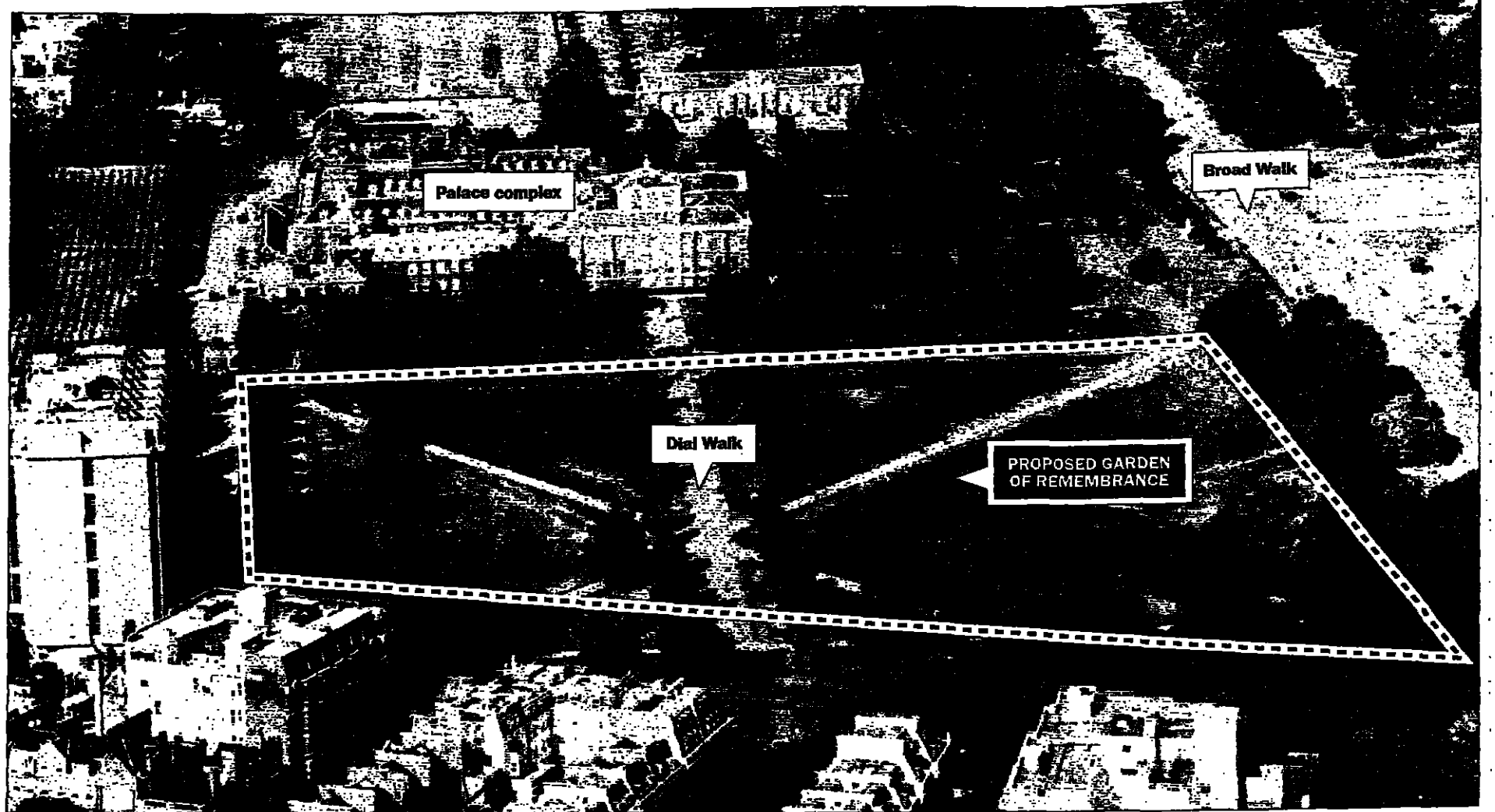
Because life's complicated enough.

Diana memorial could be £10m garden



The floral shrine to the Princess created by mourners

From over 7,000 proposals, a floral tribute emerges as the favourite way to remember, reports Michael Horsnell



A £10 MILLION garden of remembrance outside the Princess of Wales's Kensington Palace home, with highly scented plants for the blind, poetry readings, fountains and pools, emerged yesterday as the most likely monument to her.

A detailed proposal has been put by David Welch, chief executive of the Royal Parks Agency, to the committee set up by the Chancellor to devise a permanent memorial.

The Princess of Wales Memorial Committee will meet early next month to consider over 7,000 suggestions but the proposed 16-

acre site within Kensington Gardens is widely considered the best option. The area was turned into a huge impromptu shrine in the days after her death four months ago today.

The landscape architects Colvin and Moggridge of Faringdon, Oxfordshire, have been asked by the Royal Parks Agency to prepare a "design concept" embodying Mr Welch's proposals, which would cater for five million visitors a year.

Where the money for the memorial, and estimated annual running costs of £75,000, will come from

remains uncertain. But the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which is an entirely separate charitable body, will be asked to provide support.

Mr Welch, whose agency manages the eight royal parks around London, said in his report to the committee that since the Princess's death the area south of Kensington Palace, which she often used, had been visited by tens of thousands of people. "We believe the gardens will remain a focal point for visitors wishing to remember the Princess in future years," he added. "The

whole proposal would produce a new national asset, hugely increase public advantage from an existing one, be thoroughly well used and valuable, and be generally esteemed by the public."

His proposals include longer opening hours with the help of subtle lighting to create a moonlit effect, perhaps by extending the gas lighting used in Hyde Park.

The spiked railings, some of which had to be taken out before the funeral to allow safe movement because of the huge numbers of onlookers, could be removed from

the whole length of West Carriage Drive on the boundary of the gardens.

The new flower garden in front of the palace would be planted with herbs, roses and flowering shrubs and dotted with fountains, ponds, and statues. The soil would be enriched by the compost made from the millions of flowers laid in the royal parks in honour of the Princess.

Mr Welch adds: "Its design and planting could convey a sense of joyfulness and if this was done, it would be vibrant with the liveliness

of many visitors and provide a fitting climax to the pilgrims' way that is already establishing itself along the route of the funeral procession."

Evening readings, perhaps commissioned through the Poetry Society, and art exhibitions would also add to the atmosphere. Other facilities would include a children's area and places where personal tributes might be left.

The garden site, straddling Dial Walk, where mourners laid flowers after the Princess's death, has become a trampled tract of grass.

The original, elaborate pattern gardens of William and Mary were modified by Queen Anne and eventually removed before being returned to grassland in the 18th century.

To keep down costs, shrubs, roses and perennials would be preferred to annual flowers, and mulches would be used to curb weeds. In keeping with the Princess's devotion to the disadvantaged, full access would be provided for people with disabilities and there would be many scented plants for the blind.

Police hope to jog revellers' memories a year after murder

By DANIEL MCGRORY

ALONG every step of the route which Nicola Dixon followed last New Year's Eve there will be posters of the attractive 17-year-old A-level student reminding revellers that her killer has not been caught. Her family fear that, a year on, he never will be.

Nicola had set out to walk the half a mile from a hospital social club to a party to meet friends when she was sexually assaulted and bludgeoned to death by the parish church in Sutton Coldfield.

Detectives admit that, despite a £25,000 reward, television reconstructions, emotional appeals from Nicola's parents and a year-long inquiry that has taken nearly a thousand DNA samples, they are baffled as to who killed the student they call "the perfect daughter".

Detective Chief Inspector Kelvin Roberts, who still leads the inquiry, said: "We don't want to scare women into thinking this man will choose New Year's Eve again, but some woman — his wife, mother or girlfriend — must know who he is."

The poster campaign in this prosperous Birmingham suburb is a last appeal to partygoers who, police believe, a year ago must have heard



Nicola Dixon: hit and sexually assaulted

Nicola's cries as she was dragged into the garden of a deserted rectory.

They are to investigate a number of men working abroad who they know were in Sutton Coldfield for last year's holidays. But the belief is that Nicola's killer was a local.

Her mother, Rita, said: "New year is no longer something to look forward to. Nicola was probably attacked at about 10 o'clock on New Year's Eve. While most people are celebrating, we will be enduring an awful vigil while we wait for 10 to strike."

Police will be asking revel-

lers for any information they have. Mr Roberts said: "I find it hard to believe that somebody doesn't know."

They are aware of the unease in the community, with women reluctant to walk alone after dark. Neighbours remain convinced that the killer knew that the town's rector had moved just three days before the murder from the house which runs alongside Trinity Hill, a dimly lit but popular short cut.

Walburga Burrell, whose flat is near the alleyway, said: "Women won't walk there at night now as the man must have picked the one place around here where he knew he could not be seen."

Some witnesses remember seeing a man, about 5ft 10in tall and in his early 20s, in a dark overcoat and Doc Marten boots, following a few yards behind Nicola as she slithered on snow-covered roads that night.

Police cannot be certain if she was stalked or whether her attacker was waiting behind the high wooden gates of the house on Trinity Hill. Nicola was hit about the head and face with what is thought to have been a brick and then sexually assaulted. Mr Roberts said: "We believe the whole attack was over in a matter of minutes."



A sapling being trained into the shape of a stool, tended by a Groundworks warden

Long wait for a seat as garden grows furniture

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A NEW line in self-assembly furniture is taking shape in South Wales. It takes rather longer than even the most difficult DIY kit — a chair can take six years — but that is because the furniture is assembling itself.

Saplings have been planted to grow into the right shape along plywood frames, with joints forming where the shoots fuse together. The furniture garden is the idea of Christopher Cattle, a lecturer in furniture design,

who says: "Anyone with a little skill and patience could produce more or less what they want in their own back garden."

Mr Cattle, 62, who teaches at Buckinghamshire University College, has planted three rows of chairs and tables as part of a PhD in furniture design with the Royal College of Art. The Groundworks Foundation, which encourages commun-

ity enterprises in deprived areas, provided the land at Aberdare, as well as volunteer helpers. The first chair should be ready for picking at the end of next year.

The technique was once used by the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, and Mr Cattle says he has been approached by a manufacturer: "This is viable and environmentally friendly. You sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair."

Missing dome hits launch of Website

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE launch of the millennium Website was delayed yesterday as organisers tried to put the Millennium Dome back on the map of Britain.

The Internet pages, part of a £750,000 public relations blitz paid for by players of the National Lottery, had been expected to go live at 9.30am. But, after *The Times* disclosed that the map of projects receiving lottery money had excluded the £750 million festival in Greenwich, organisers had a change of heart.

The Millennium Commission had hired the image consultants Lloyd Northover Citigate to tell the public that its lottery money was going to much more than just the year-long exhibition at the dome site. The centrepiece of the Website was to be a map of the United Kingdom with orange squares marking the big capital projects being helped by the commission. But there was no mention of the dome.

A spokeswoman for the commission explained that the dome, which will receive £449 million from the lottery, was regarded as being in a different category. "It isn't a capital project as such," she said. "If people think it is significant, we are going to amend the map."

Letters, page 19

Grumpy grocer bans all customers

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SHOPKEEPER has banned all customers from inside his store because he believes they are too rude and noisy.

Sohan Singh locked the door of his grocery and off-licence and installed a serving hatch. Now customers of the Glenhorpe Stores in Burmanloft, Leeds, have to choose what they want through the shop window before ringing a bell to be served through the hatch.

Mr Singh, 49, said: "It is a small shop and somebody standing outside can see everything we have to sell."

He said it was a final measure against unruly customers in an area of the west Yorkshire city known for its social problems. Mr Singh, who has run his shop for 13 years, has already banned smokers, prams, pets and people who swear. He said he was prepared to suffer a drop in takings rather than admit "abusive" people.

"I am here to provide a public service. I respect customers as long as they respect me and my family. If they abuse me, I do not serve them," he said. "I have done what I did because people were abusing the system by coming in smoking cigarettes or pushing prams. Now nobody is allowed in."

Sound practice could help whales to live in peace and quiet

Born Free Appeal

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For details of membership, animal adoptions and projects, visit BFF's Website at: <http://www.bornfree.co.uk/bornfree>

By PHILIP DELVES
BROUGHTON

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

IMAGINE having a motorcycle constantly revving up in the middle of your house; and perhaps a lawnmower and a power drill on the go. The effect is much the same as that being inflicted on the Orca whales who return year after year to Johnstone Strait, a narrow channel off British Columbia in Canada.

The Orca, known as killer whales, communicate acoustically. So when hundreds of motorised fishing boats, tourist boats and liners criss-cross their habitat, the noise can be devastating. Several whales have even been hit and injured by passing boats.

The area off British Columbia is one of the easiest places in the world to see Orca in their natural habitat. The whales are immensely sociable creatures. They live in

families which stay together constantly, throughout the year, almost never splitting up. Human interest in them is understandable but is making their lives a misery.

OrcaLab, based in British Columbia, is devoted to the study of the whales. Paul Spong and Helena Symonds run the centre, which tracks the whales off the coast and studies their language. In the past year, they have also provided the tourist boats with precise information on the whales' whereabouts with a daily 7am e-mail. This helps to lessen the frantic search which takes place every day whales are in the area.

As a next step, OrcaLab, with the help of the Born Free Foundation, one of the charities nominated this year by *The Times* for its Christmas

Appeal, is trying to bring together all the water-users in the area where the whales live and formulate a set of best-practice rules to control traffic.

Kim Wood, who looks after Orca for the foundation, says: "We want to be peacekeepers on the water and bring together the logging and fishing interests as well as the sports fishermen and tourist people and agree on how to protect the whales who do, after all, provide many livelihoods in the area."

Negotiating the release of Orca held in captivity fits in with the foundation's principal aim of creating the most natural habitat possible for animals held in captivity or having them responsibly released back into the wild. Whales which should be liv-

ing for well over 50 years in the wild have an average lifespan of five years when in captivity.

OrcaLab needs funds to maintain its projects tracking and studying the whales off British Columbia. The plan to establish rules for those using the waters inhabited by the whales will require seed money of just a few thousand pounds to implement.

Corky, an Orca who has been a star attraction at Sea World in Florida for nearly 28 years, comes from a family under observation by Dr Spong and OrcaLab. "Her mother is still alive in the wild," says Kim Wood. "Corky has even retained her whale dialect. The first whale to get back into the wild would have a big price on its head in terms of tourist interest, but if done properly it would be by far the best thing for the whale."

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PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE TIMES

If more than the £40,000 required for the gene sequencer is raised through the Christmas appeal, it will go directly to other vital prostate cancer research at the Institute of Cancer Research.

Codebreaker names Bard's 'Fair Youth'

Shakespearean mystery may be solved, reports Nigel Hawkes

A RETIRED physicist believes he has solved a puzzle that has baffled Shakespearean scholars for generations.

The identity of Mr W.H., the "onlie begueter" of Shakespeare's sonnets, is hidden in the enigmatic dedication in the first printed edition of the poems, says Dr John Rollett. The dedication, awkwardly phrased and obscure in meaning, is a cipher containing the name Henry Wriothesley.

Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, was known to have been a patron of Shakespeare, who dedicated two narrative poems to him. The fact that his name can be found concealed in the letters of the dedication leaves "not much room for doubt" in Dr Rollett's mind that Wriothesley was also the inspiration for the sonnets.

They were published in 1609 by Thomas Thorpe, described by the *Dictionary of National Biography* as "disreputable and half-educated". He obtained them from an unknown source — not Shakespeare — and is assumed to have written the dedication, since it ends with the initials T.T. The sonnets were written much earlier, in about 1594, when the poet was 30 and Wriothesley was 21.

Many scholars have been struck by the awkwardness of Thorpe's dedication, since he is known to have been capable of more elegant prose. It occupies the second leaf of the



John Rollett, who says the odds against the name Henry Wriothesley appearing by chance are one in 320 million

quarto edition, beginning "To the onlie begueter of these ensuing sonnets Mr W.H. all happinesses..."

In 1964 Leslie Hotson, a Shakespeare scholar, claimed to have identified the name William Hatcliffe hidden in the dedication, but this idea is not now accepted. Inspired by Hotson's efforts, Dr Rollett wondered if the dedication really did contain the secret.

It contains many peculiarities, he says, from the way it is arranged to the curious spelling of "onlie", and the close conjunction of "wisheth" and "well-wishing", where near-repetition could easily have been avoided by using a phrase such as "well-disposed".

This made him wonder if it was a cipher. When he counted the letters, he found there were 144, a suspiciously round number which has many factors. This suggested the idea of laying out the letters as blocks — 12 lines of 12 letters each to form a square, for example, or eight letters by 18.

Arranged in a rectangle of nine rows, each of 16 letters, the name Henry appears, running diagonally downwards. And when the letters are arranged as a block of eight by 18, the name Wriothesley can be teased out — although it is broken up into three separate sections, "Wri", "ioth", and "esley".

Such a cipher is based on a technique first used by Spartan generals, who wound a strip of paper around a staff, then wrote the message end to end. The message cannot be read until the paper is wound around an identical staff by the recipient.

Codes were widely used in Elizabethan times, and John Dee, a scholar and astrologer of the day, describes a cipher based on writing out a text in the form of a block, as Dr Rollett has done. Thorpe could well have been aware of this type of cipher.

Dr Rollett's decoding will appear in the next issue of *Elizabethan Review*, a literary and historical journal published in the US. Whether it will be accepted by scholars depends on how plausible it is that the names Henry and sections of Wriothesley would

appear by chance at 1,192 to one, and the section "esley" of Wriothesley at 1,056 to one. Taking into account the same block also includes "ioth" and "Wri" raises the odds to about one in 270,000, says Dr Rollett. Multiplying the odds against finding Henry with those against finding the three fragments of Wriothesley gives overall odds of one in 320 million.

So far, Dr Rollett has been disappointed by the reaction of Shakespearean scholars. "One replied that the identity of the young man was no longer central to work on the sonnets," he says. "Another said it didn't matter who he was. But his identity has puzzled a large number of people for 150 years or so."

There is one final problem: Henry Wriothesley was HW, not WH. Dr Rollett is understood — he says that Thorpe simply transposed the initials as an extra puzzle, as Elizabethans often did.



A famous miniature by Nicholas Hilliard is thought by some to represent the "Fair Youth" of the sonnets, because the brambles are said to form the letters "WH"

Britain plans to turn off TV porn channel

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

A BANNING order is to be sought by Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, against a French-based pornographic television channel beamed into Britain by satellite.

In October the Independent Television Commission (ITC) decided that Eurotica Rendez-Vous was an "unsuitable" channel under broadcasting rules and recommended that Mr Smith seek the order, which bans the marketing and sale of the service in Britain.

The ITC said that the output of the channel — a reconstructed version of an earlier banned channel called Rendez-Vous — consisted "almost exclusively of unacceptable pornography". The channel is being marketed in Britain through advertisements in satellite magazines and dealers offering decoders and smart cards.

The commission licenses a number of "soft porn" satellite channels, such as Playboy, which are available only by

subscription. Such channels feature nudity and simulated sex. The ITC said yesterday that Eurotica Rendez-Vous showed explicit sexual acts which it judges pornographic.

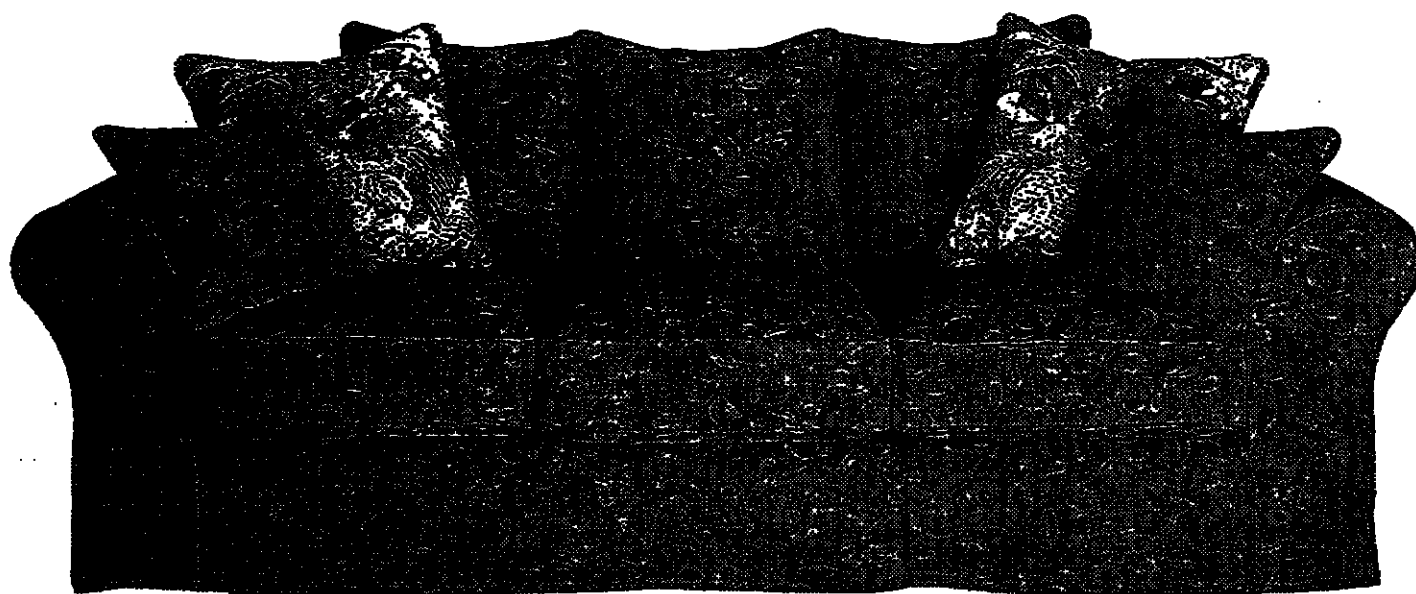
The secretary of state has viewed the tape [of Eurotica] and agrees with the ITC's judgment," the Department of Culture said yesterday.

Mr Smith plans on Monday to notify Eurotica, the French Government and the European Commission of his intention to proscribe the channel.

The Government is using a clause of the EU Broadcasting Directive which allows member states to act against types of programmes "which might seriously impair the physical, mental or moral development of minors".

Britain's first homosexual television channel, Gay TV, is to be launched on January 6. The satellite subscription channel, which promises "the very raunchiest in gay entertainment", will be broadcast each day from 4am to 5.30am.

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So if you believe in the expression 'out with the old, in with the new,' visit your local House of Fraser store on New Year's Day (or January 2nd for Scottish stores). And once you've done that, relax.



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Teacher quits in protest at £1,500 Christmas party

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

THE deputy head of a primary school has resigned in protest at the amount of money spent on the staff Christmas party. Steve Williamson quit Reay Primary School in Brixton, south London, after about 30 staff enjoyed a £1,500 night out, including dinner and a trip to the West End show *Chicago*.

School governors said no more than £500 of the grant-maintained school's budget should have been spent and have launched an inquiry. They will meet next term to decide whether Peter Charam, the head teacher, should repay the remaining £1,000.

Tony Andrews, the chairman of governors, said yesterday that Mr Williamson would serve his notice during the spring term. "He has resigned and we accepted his resignation. His letter prompted us to look into this further," said Mr Andrews.

He added: "We think an element of team-building and morale-boosting for the staff is appropriate, but we thought the amount of money was too high. The governors are investigating the matter. It is a matter of whether it was spent appropriately, given that it is a state school and it is public money. The staff

are excellent and deserve to be rewarded. The basic idea was a thank-you to an excellent group of staff. If we were to add up all the extra hours they have worked it would come to much more than the money spent on the Christmas outing. But we have to put a limit upon how much can come out of school funds."

The 210-pupil school has an annual budget of £707,761. Mr Charam justified the bill by saying it was normal for all schools to go out for a Christmas meal, but refused to comment further.

One teacher, who did not wish to be named, said: "This is obviously a mess. We are only a small school without much money and the cash would have been better spent on books or something else."

"There is no suggestion of financial impropriety and the money was spent as a goodwill gesture. But at a time when the school is struggling for cash it is obviously going to look bad that all this money is being spent on the teachers."

A spokesman for the Funding Agency for Schools, which allocates money to grant-maintained schools, said governors decided how to spend their budget.



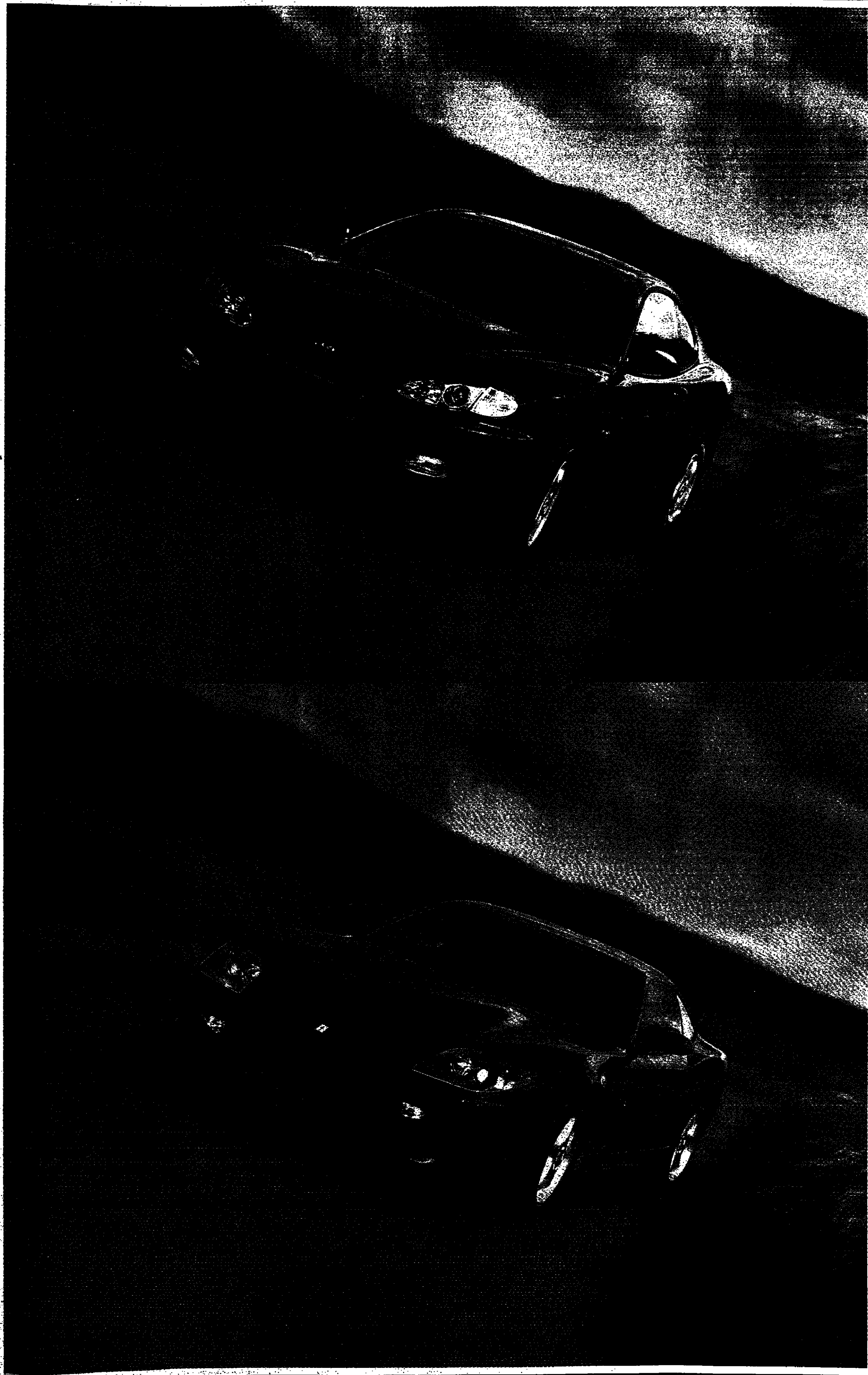
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مكتبة الدار



Nile town counts cost of massacre



Michael Binyon reports from Luxor how visitors are being promised bargain prices. Photographs by Chris Harris

THE vast floating hotels are moored silently along the Nile bank. The linen sails of the picturesque *faluccas* flap in the breeze but no one is making photographs and no one ventures out for a sail.

Abed el-Naser sat, dejected, in the warm December sun outside his floating papyrus museum, no longer bothering to entice in the occasional European. "There is no one coming. They are all frightened. Most of us will be ruined," he said.

A mile away, flanking the massive portals of the temple of Luxor, the inscrutable pharaonic statues stand as they have for 4,000 years. But there are no Germans clustered around their pedestals, no groups of British package holidayers listening to the history of ancient Thebes.

No Swiss or Japanese with their cameras, sunhats and curiosity to explore Egypt's most lucrative tourist attraction. The massacre of 58 tourists, including six Britons, at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut on November 17 has devastated the £2 billion Egyptian tourism industry. Nowhere has the damage been as great, or the psychological shock so profound, as at Luxor.

The small, close-knit city, far up the Nile in Upper Egypt, was considered immune from the politics of Islamic fanaticism. "No one expected anything here," the guides said. "We all know each other. Everyone here is very angry. We are still tribal in Upper Egypt, and we follow the tribal rules of hospitality. The tourists are our guests. Everyone of us is insulted by these men who came from outside to do this."

Complacency was the culprit. It took the police almost 90 minutes to arrive on the scene after the six gunmen had begun firing. It was the locals who tried to help, pursuing the bus hijacked by the killers with sticks, staves and stones. The bus driver, who defied orders to drive to another tourist site until he was wounded by the enraged gunmen, is a local hero.

"We have learnt the lesson," insisted Salmi Salim, the city's

new Mayor, a no-nonsense army man drafted in to improve security and help Luxor to get back on its feet.

The city has been ringed with troops far out in the desert, on watch for infiltrators. At the main tourist sites, police armed with machine-guns sit at the entrances. But, however much the local people argue that Luxor is safer than Florida or New York, tourist companies have taken fright. The British were by far the largest group of visitors, and they have disappeared.

Why is Thomson not sending people? the hoteliers asked, invoking each time the company that is the lifeblood for the city. They also hint that the British Government is forbidding Britons to go to Egypt.

certainly the Foreign Office advice, with its warning of Islamic fanaticism, has made insurance cover more difficult.

Cairo has come to the town's aid. It has postponed all tax collection for six months and begun a big programme to fill the empty beds with Egyptians — students, teachers, civil servants and all those who would benefit from knowing their country's history.

The occasional Western visitor is delighted by the chance to wander in solitude among the pillars of Karnak or marvel at the hieroglyphics and depictions of rites millennia ago. "Of course I'm not worried," a New Zealander remarked as she hurried across to the empty temple. "I wouldn't be here if I was."

Those seeking a bargain should go now. Rarely has Luxor been more accessible or more welcoming. Two decades of tourism have inculcated in the local people a love for the ancient pharaohs.

In the near-empty cafés, there is anger at corruption, nepotism and the perception that Cairo has always looked down on Upper Egypt. But no one shows anything but contempt for the Islamists. "You are safe with us," the guides and guards tell tourists.

And if smiles were shields, Luxor would be invincible. "Welcome," the police say every hundred yards. "You are welcome in Egypt." More than ever now.

Everyone of us is insulted by these men who came from outside to kill



Boats and floating hotels lie idle on the Nile at Luxor as tourists stay away from the site of Egypt's pharaonic treasures after the massacre

World numbers growth 'slowing'

Washington: Population growth is declining globally but remains high in those countries "least able to support their growing millions", according to a study released yesterday.

The Population Institute said: "Rapid population growth in the poorest countries remains the most pressing global demographic problem." Its 1997 *World Population Overview* compared the slower rise in population to a tidal wave. "Whether... 80ft or 100ft high, the impact will be similar."

Over the next few years, the annual number of births worldwide would be at least 132 million. The institute added that nearly 98 per cent of the annual population increase occurs in less developed regions. The overall decline in growth was attributed to widespread acceptance of family planning, delayed marriages and increasing death rates. (AFP)



A woman from the University of Luxor cleaning hieroglyphics and depictions at Karnak temple

Millennial cheer for champagne sales

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

SALES of champagne have broken all records this year as anxious buyers stockpile bottles for the millennium — and Britain is one of the biggest overseas customers.

More than 270 million bottles were sold in 1997 with exports reaching 100 million bottles for the first time, the French business daily *Les Echos* reported. "At the moment we are witnessing precautionary buying and this situation will become even more apparent next year," Yves Bénard, president of the Union of Champagne Houses, said.

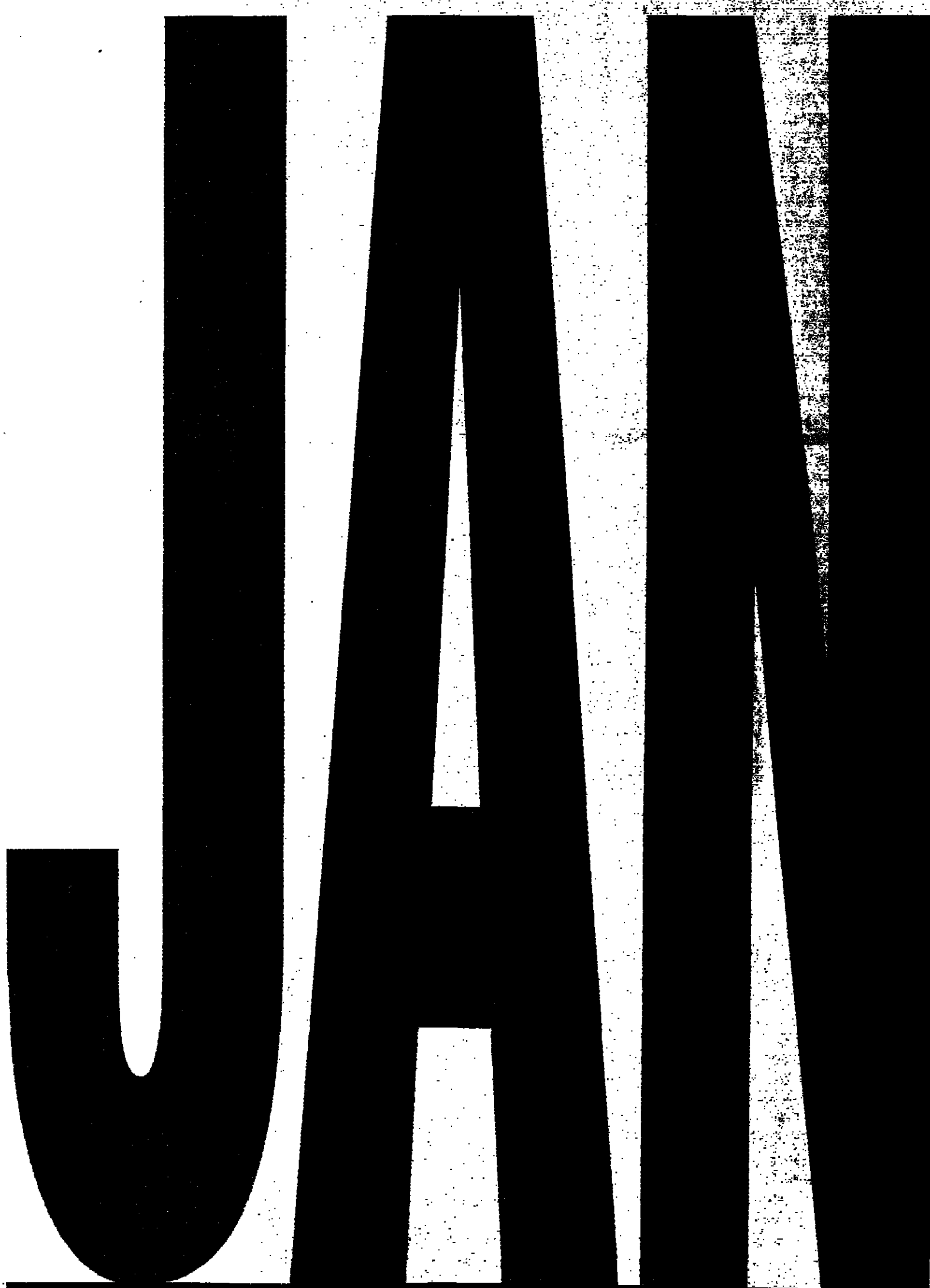
Stocks have never been higher, standing at about one billion bottles, most of it tucked away in cellars cut into the chalky stone below the towns of Reims and Epernay.

This figure will be augmented by the annual crop of 250 million bottles.

As world demand is only 246 million bottles, even those who leave their champagne purchases until closing time on Hogmanay 1999 need not fear any shortage of non-vintage and even vintage champagnes to choose from.

In Britain sales have risen by two million bottles to 8.3 million bottles in the past two years.

Despite such assurances, the millennium is still expected to increase sales of festive bubbly by 60 million bottles between now and 2000. The signs of strongest growth have been outside the European Union, where sales were up by 14 per cent compared with 1996.



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Kenya unrest feared after chaos at polls

KENYA faced the prospect yesterday of renewed unrest, with the Government and the opposition crying foul after chaotic general elections.

President Moi said in a radio broadcast that the election was rigged by his opponents. The claim was made as ballots were still being counted after electoral mayhem forced a second day of voting yesterday.

The 73-year-old President, and his Kanu party have been widely tipped to win the elections. But state-owned KBC radio broadcast a bulletin in which President Moi accused the Electoral Commission of being involved in "an obvious scheme to rig the general elections in favour of the opposition".

The radio added: "President Moi said it was absurd that, since the start of voting [on Monday], the Electoral Commission had targeted Kanu's traditional strongholds." It quoted Mr Moi as saying that in some Kanu areas the commission had made sure there was a shortage of ballot papers.

Opposition parties are also dismissing the elections as fraudulent. They are blaming Kanu for purposely orchestrating the confusion in which ballot papers were delivered late, to the wrong places and,

Government and opposition are crying electoral foul, David Orr reports in Nairobi

in some cases, not at all. Safina, the party of Richard Leakey, the conservationist, has called for mass action in the new year if President Moi and Kanu win the elections. The Social Democratic Party of Charity Ngilu, a presidential challenger, has said that the elections should be annulled because of rigging by Kanu. There are fears that if opposition supporters take to the streets there could be a repeat of the violence when security forces crushed demonstrations in Nairobi in the summer.

"The elections are emerging as a fantastic farce", said members of the National Convention Executive Council (NCEC), a pro-democracy reform lobby with strong opposition links. "Pretended inefficiency and staggering fraud have irreparably marred the 1997 attempt to

hold an election. [They are] an insult to the Kenyan people." The NCEC urged Kenyans yesterday to "reject the flawed elections" and called on Mr Moi to form a government of national unity. The organisation, which led last summer's suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations, has appealed for calm "at this hour of national tragedy".

Professor Kivutha Kibwana, the NCEC chairman, said yesterday: "The manner in which the elections have been conducted so far precludes anyone other than Moi from winning." A few minutes after the NCEC press conference, senior Kanu officials were also alleging skulduggery. Echoing the words of his leader, Jeremiah Nyagah accused "Electoral Commission of trying to 'frustrate an otherwise assured [Kanu] victory. Ballot papers were either missing or less than required in areas that support Kanu. It is obvious these events were not accidental."

His statements to journalists gave rise to suspicions that President Moi and Kanu may be preparing the ground for defeat if the results, expected by the end of the week, go against them.

Leading article, page 19



A soldier guards hundreds of full ballot boxes in Nairobi City Hall yesterday before counting got under way

Chicken flu hunt extended to China

By JAMES PRINGLE

THE World Health Organisation confirmed yesterday that health experts would visit China next month to search for a possible source of the deadly avian flu virus.

The announcement came as unofficial reports from China's Guangdong province bordering Hong Kong said that one person had died from the illness there.

Tang Guoqiang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Agriculture Ministry had sent its own experts to Guangdong to investigate the epidemic, but that "as of now, we have not received any reports of cases of avian flu".

There appears to be no killing of chickens in China, which Hong Kong officials say has been the epicentre of influenza outbreaks: 80 per cent of Hong Kong's chickens come from the mainland.

An Agriculture Ministry official said that the ministry would soon issue a notice urging the whole country, and coastal provinces in particular, to be alert to the avian flu, which most chicken-vendors in Beijing know little or nothing about.

In Beijing, Alan Schnur, a local WHO official, said the experts would visit Guangdong during the week starting January 12. He added that Chinese authorities were treating the scare "very seriously" and were engaged in surveillance work.

In Hong Kong, the slaughter of 1.3 million chickens continued in an effort to combat the epidemic which has killed four out of the 13 people who are thought to have contracted the sickness.

Areas where the birds had been exterminated in Hong Kong's urban areas were being hosed down and disinfected. Empty chicken markets were unusually deserted and silent. The grisly business of killing has now moved into markets and smallholdings in the rural New Territories.

Taiwan said last night it was striving to replace China as the main supplier of chickens to Hong Kong.

Nyerere offers jail exit for Kaunda

By RAY KENNEDY

KENNETH KAUNDA, the former Zambian President who has been in jail since Christmas Day, was yesterday offered freedom in return for a pledge to retire from active politics.

Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian President, flew with the offer to the maximum security prison at Kambe after talks in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, with President Chiluba. Mr Nyerere flew to Lusaka on Monday to try to mediate on behalf of countries in the 11-member Southern African Development Community (SADC), to which Zambia belongs, who have expressed their concern.

"I was allowed to see Kenneth Kaunda and now I am off home. I have nothing more to say to the press," Mr Nyerere told reporters.

But although some diplomats in Lusaka felt that Mr Nyerere could clinch a deal, others said they believe that Dr Kaunda, 73, will not give way. One of his sons, Major Wezi Kaunda, said yesterday that his father, who has been on hunger strike since his arrest, has now been persuaded to drink some water and fruit juice.

He has been served with a 28-day detention order in connection with a failed coup attempt in October carried out by a group of junior army officers. An application in the Lusaka High Court for him to be released on bail is due to be resumed on Friday.



Nyerere: mediating on behalf of African states

Beijing tries to halt Singapore visit

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA yesterday expressed serious concern over a planned unofficial visit to Singapore by Lien Chan, the Taiwanese Vice-President, which it sees as a rebuff from an old ally.

The visit takes some of the gloss off Beijing's formal establishment of diplomatic relations with South Africa yesterday. President Mandela's Government signed a formal agreement with China, switching relations from Taiwan to the mainland. South Africa said it accepted that there was only one China, the People's Republic of China.

Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, who signed the agreement with his counterpart, Alfred Nzo, in Pretoria, told Taiwan to give up

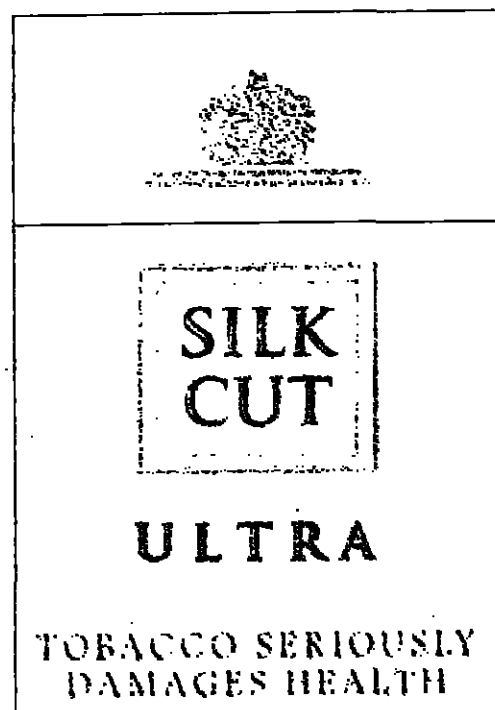
its rivalry with Beijing. "It is like Don Quixote's fight against the windmills."

Yet Taiwan has managed to save some face by announcing Mr Lien's "family holiday" in Singapore, during which it is said he will meet Singaporean leaders. Twenty-nine countries retain diplomatic links with Taiwan.

"We are seriously concerned about this news and have made representations to the Singapore side," Tang Guoqiang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. "We hope the Singapore Government will, proceeding from the overall friendly interests of the two nations, solve this problem and avoid unnecessary interference or damage to bilateral relations."

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Mutinous Brazilian prisoners kill inmate

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PRISON inmates holding 600 hostages in a Brazilian maximum-security jail and demanding a getaway vehicle were last night reported to have killed a fellow convict.

Nilton dos Reis, convicted of rape, was murdered in his cell and his body thrown out of one of the prison's windows, police reported.

Troops surrounded the Sorocaba jail, in São Paulo state, where a group of armed inmates have been holding the hostages, including at least 300 women and 230 children, since Sunday.

Most hostages, who yesterday braved a third night in captivity in temperatures up to 43C (109F), are relatives and friends of some of the 869 prisoners in the jail, an institution equipped for only 500

inmates. They also include 17 prison guards, who according to released hostages, have been locked in a windowless cell with grenades tied to their feet. The standoff began when a riot broke out on Sunday evening, during a busy visiting hour. Police said the wife of an inmate had smuggled a suitcase full of machineguns, revolvers, knives and grenades into the jail for a group of 11 prisoners who planned to disguise themselves as women and escape.

Prison guards foiled this attempt and a 15-minute gun battle ensued, in which one woman and an inmate were killed. The prisoners then overpowered the poorly armed guards and took over the jail. Initially they released some hostages, one pregnant



Inmates on the roof of the Sorocaba jail threaten to hang a fellow prisoner yesterday as heavily armed Brazilian troops mass outside

woman, 11 babies and elderly or ailing relatives. Yesterday the ringleaders announced on loudspeakers from the prison rooftop that they would not free any more hostages until an armoured getaway vehicle was provided. Police said the group of prisoners leading the hostage-taking are members

of São Paulo's notorious drugs gangs. The authorities have pledged that they would make every effort to reach a negotiated settlement. They want to avoid a repeat of a similar incident, which ended in a bloodbath, when soldiers stormed the Carandiru prison, also in São Paulo state, in

1992. One hundred and eleven prisoners were killed, and human rights organisations said that most had been shot in the head by São Paulo's notorious military police. "We will not storm the Sorocaba jail until the last instance and want to avoid a greater tragedy, but we will

also not allow the rioting inmates to use this as a chance to get away," said Albino Costa, spokesman for the state justice department, who is negotiating with the hostage-takers. "We are appealing to them to release the women and children, and especially the 38 babies believed to be

among the hostages." More than 500 gallons of milk, 2,000 loaves of bread and several bags of nappies were allowed into the prison last night. Although civilian authorities are likely to try to delay a possible storming, police and military chiefs are said to be in favour of such an operation.

Ex-nurse charged after 100 hospital deaths

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A FORMER hospital nurse has been charged with murdering six elderly patients after a 33-month investigation into more than 100 puzzling deaths in the intensive-care unit while he was on duty.

Orville Lynn Majors was manning the ward while 130 patients died between May 1993 and March 1995. Only 17 other deaths happened during that period at times when Mr Majors was not on duty.

The deaths happened at the Vermillion County Hospital, north of Terre Haute, in Indiana. Mr Majors joined the staff in early 1993 and was suspended in March 1995 for "engaging in activities beyond his authority". They included administering drugs without a doctor's authorisation.

Mr Majors, who is being held without bail in Vermillion County jail, denies any wrongdoing. I. Marshall Pinkus, his lawyer, described Mr Majors' arrest as a "travesty". He said yesterday: "I am shocked and stunned."

Yet authorities at the 56-bed hospital were once shocked and stunned, too, as the death rates for the period in which Mr Majors worked with patients appeared to defy statistical analysis as well as medical explanations. In the early 1990s deaths in the intensive-care unit ranged from 24 to 31 a year. In 1994 the toll rose to 101, although admissions to the hospital had not risen above previous levels. In fact, as the hospital's notoriety spread, fewer people were bringing their sick relations there for treatment.

A recent study of 22 months during which Mr Majors was at the hospital discloses that a death happened every 23.1 hours when he was working. During that same period, a death took place once every 551.6 hours when Mr Majors was not working. The hospital consultant who prepared the study said that deaths in the intensive-care ward reached "epidemic proportions" from July to December 1994.

According to affidavits submitted to investigators, Mr Majors' colleagues said he often described the relations of hospital patients as "dirty", "white trash" and "a bunch of whiners". Two friends of the accused have also told investigators that he had always hated the elderly: one recalled him as saying that "they should all be gassed".

In March, 1996 the police seized potassium chloride from Mr Majors' van. They also found syringes and needles at his home.



Meinertzhagen: stole rare owl specimen

Saga of 'extinct' Indian owls clips birdman's reputation

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A SMALL owl, long thought extinct, has been found in India by two American experts. With help from the FBI, scientists from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington have also uncovered an ornithological fraud by a British soldier, adventurer and spy.

The species, known as the forest owl (*Athene blewiti*), was last sighted in the wild in 1884. The late Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, a prominent British ornithologist, claimed to have collected one in Gujarat in October 1914 but detective work by the museum's ornithology experts and the FBI laboratories proved that he stole an 1884 specimen from Britain's Natural History Museum, restuffed it and relabelled it.

"This fraud threw everyone off the scent," said Pamela Rasmussen, an ornithologist at the museum who spotted the owl. "At the time he took the owl, probably in the 1920s, he might not have known how rare the species was and therefore how confusing his relabelling would be." The discovery of the pair of owls was the culmination of a



Found alive: forest owl

year's Anglo-American detective work by Dr Rasmussen and Nigel Collar of Birdlife International in Cambridge. They had tracked down seven museum specimens. Six were obtained in India more than 100 years ago and only one — Meinertzhagen's — was claimed to have been found this century.

Most of the other specimens had been collected and stuffed in the 1880s by James Davidson, a British researcher. He had a distinctive method of binding the wings and stuffing the cavities around the wing bones with yellowed cotton.

Suspensions were aroused when seemingly identical cotton was found in the Meinertzhagen specimen. The samples matched, which

could only mean that Meinertzhagen had stolen a Davidson specimen from the British Museum, cleaned it up and relabelled it, but omitted to change the cotton stuffing before claiming the discovery to be his own. "This fraud threw everyone off the scent," said Dr Rasmussen yesterday.

Three years ago, the British Ornithological Union alleged that Meinertzhagen, who died in 1967, aged 89, was a cheat, a charge that threw into question the scientific worth of his collection of 20,000 stuffed birds in the Natural History Zoological Museum in Tring, Hertfordshire.

Meinertzhagen had a strange and varied career. He once beat his groom to death with a mallet, faced a court of inquiry over the death of an African witch doctor and used trickery to help General Allenby wrest Palestine from the Turks.

He claimed to have met Hitler three times before the war, once with a revolver in his pocket. He said he always regretted not shooting the Führer when he had the chance. He was strongly pro-Zionist and a square was named after him in Jerusalem earlier this year.

Clintons' fund dries up

Washington: The legal defence fund that President and Hillary Clinton had hoped would help them with their soaring lawyers' bills was dissolved yesterday because contributions were steadily declining (Ian Brodie writes).

The trustees' decision leaves the Clintons with unpaid legal

bills of \$3 million (£1.8 million) over the Whitewater affair and the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones. In the first 11 months of this year, the fund took in only \$80,000, compared with \$261,000 in 1996. The fund had raised \$1.3 million and paid legal bills of \$766,000.

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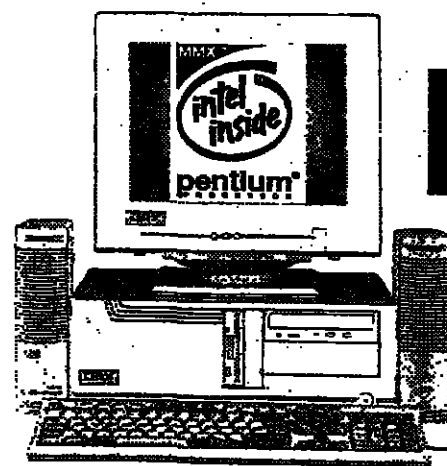
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Ex-nurse charged after 100 hospital deaths

Ailing economy tames Japan's year of the tiger

JAPAN begins its new year's holiday today in a mood of anxiety over the national destiny and fears that economic fortunes will get worse before they get better.

A nation has to relearn the art of thrift, Robert Whyman writes in Tokyo

Millions will flock to shrines and temples in a ritual of praying for health and prosperity. But few expect the new year — the year of the tiger — to bring quick relief from the economic gloom weighing on the national psyche.

In a country, where exchange rates and economic prospects dominate television news, the dramatic collapse of Yamaichi Securities and several other financial institutions has dented national self-confidence. "Can Japan survive?" was the overwrought message on more than one Christmas card.

To make matters worse, many Japanese were denied the pleasure of drowning their worries at "forget-the-old-year" parties. Company executives decided that the business outlook was simply too bleak to justify the annual bash. So many banquets were cancelled that housewives shopping this week for traditional new year fare found Tokyo markets awash with supplies of crab and herring sold at hefty discounts.

A government report released this week said Japan's economy has come to a standstill, due mainly to a sharp decline in consumer spending, which makes up three fifths of growth. The report gave two reasons why Japanese are keeping their wallets in their pockets: first is the rise in consumption tax in April, which senior ministers privately concede was badly timed and, second, the declining prospects for employment.

Given the nervousness, many firms decided to cut back on the lavish *seibo*, year-end gifts to business associates. In November, retail sales suffered their biggest fall on record and officials predict declines into the new year.

The ripples from Japan's recession will eventually reach London, as free-spending Japanese tourists decrease in numbers. In December, the Japan Travel Bureau forecast a decline in Japanese travelling overseas over the new year, while travel agencies are bracing for a slump in 1998.

The slowdown in the economy is forcing firms to shed workers without regard for the jobs-for-life principle. Government figures released last week show that Japan's unemployment rate stands at a postwar record high of 3.5 per cent for November.

Despite the protracted slump — the Tokyo Stock Exchange ended the year 20 per cent lower than the start of the year — Japan is not without resources. The Japanese hold a third of the world's total savings. Workers at the big Japanese manufacturers were paid generous winter bonuses: on average bonuses at 650 companies were up 3.6 per cent on 1996.

But many people are saving the money rather than spending it, and government plans to stimulate consumption, such as the proposed "Happy Monday" long weekend, have provoked ridicule.

After the excesses of the asset bubble of the 1980s, when golf memberships at fashionable clubs went for £3 million, the nation appears to have rediscovered the traditional Japanese virtue of thrift. Just seven years ago, people were sprinkling gold dust on their desserts in Ginza restaurants. Today we hear them talking about "noble poverty", says Kenneth Courtis, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Group Asia Pacific.



Tokyo Stock Exchange traders bow to each other as the market ended trading for the year at 20 per cent lower

Rwandan suspect freed by US court

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A MAGISTRATE in Texas has set free a Rwandan refugee wanted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal, asserting that the United States has no extradition agreement with the UN.

The decision throws into doubt America's ability to co-operate with UN tribunals on Rwanda and former Yugoslavia, despite Washington's strong political support for bringing war crimes suspects to justice.

Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, 73, was indicted by the UN tribunal based in Arusha, Tanzania, for his part in the slaughter in 1994 of Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

A prominent Hunu and trusted pastor in Mugonero, he advised local people to take refuge in the church and the hospital when the killings started. But the charges said he later led soldiers to the sanctuaries where they carried out a massacre. Mr Ntakirutimana was arrested last year in Laredo, Texas.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Bank hijacker held after hostage release

Milan: Italian police last night stormed a Milan bank and captured a man who earlier released four hostages he had held at gunpoint for 24 hours, police said. Several shots were heard as officers captured Domenico Gargano, 35, a Sicilian who had been paid four billion lire (about £1.2 million) in ransom.

He had earlier stayed in the bank with a gun and an explosive device, negotiating by telephone for his surrender, after releasing his hostages. Police said Gargano took the hostages, all officers or employees of the small branch of Banca Popolare, on Monday after being refused a loan because of his criminal record, which included convictions for robbery, violence and attempted extortion. He had demanded a helicopter to get away, but police sealed off the area surrounding the bank and called in a special reinforcement team. (AFP)

South Korea executes 23

Seoul: Twenty-three death-row inmates were executed in South Korea by hanging yesterday, including a policeman who shot dead four people over a personal grudge. They were convicted of murder, rape, robbery and other serious charges. The executions were the first in the country since November 1995 when 19 prisoners were hanged. In 1991, Kim Jun Young, 33, a police officer, drew his revolver while on duty and killed four people who, he said, had refused to drop a legal action against him. Rights groups and religious organisations demonstrated against the executions. South Korea has executed 902 people since its foundation in 1948. Thirty-six people remain on death row. (AFP)

Two killed in Delhi bus blast

Delhi: At least two people were killed and 20 wounded when a bomb exploded on a bus in the Indian capital, just as police had stopped it for a routine search. Ravi Pawar, a police spokesman, said a bomb had been planted under a seat near the back of the bus, which was packed with rush-hour passengers. In the Rampura district. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which was the latest in a series of recent explosions in the capital. The Shahid Khalsa force of Sikh separatists in the northwestern state of Punjab claimed responsibility for two attacks carried out in October. (Reuters)

What's up, doc? Stamp sales!

Washington: Bugs Bunny bounced to first place among new US postage stamps, with 45.3 million stamps collected in 1997, but Elvis Presley remains the all-time king, with 124 million stamps collected since 1963. Among the ten most popular stamps of 1997, more than 231 million were saved, an increase of more than 31 million over last year. The popularity of stamps is measured by the number collected, not those used in the post. The year-end statistics are determined through quarterly surveys sent to 60,000 homes. (AP)

Toll of 97 in Algeria killings

Paris: Ninety-seven civilians died in new massacres at fake roadblocks, raids on villages, a bomb blast and other attacks across Algeria, newspapers reported. Attackers cut the throats of 34 villagers — 19 women, 11 children and four men — at a village in the Medea area, 45 miles south of Algiers. The attackers booby-trapped one body which exploded later, wounding several people among relations and rescuers who went to the massacre site, it was reported. The violence brought to more than 300 the number of civilians killed in the past six days. (Reuters)

Jordan jails Israel plotters

Amman: Four Jordanian-Palestinians convicted of plotting attacks on Israelis have been sentenced to between ten and 15 years imprisonment with hard labour, a court official said. In sentencing them, Judge Yousef Faouri, of the State Security Court, said: "The defendants' possession of arms and explosives and their plotting attacks against Israel is a threat to the security of Jordan." Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994. The court had initially decided to sentence the four to death. (AP)

Immigrant guilty of racism

Jerusalem: An Israeli court has found Tatyana Suskin, 26, right, guilty of racism for putting up posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. Suskin, a Russian immigrant and supporter of the outlawed anti-Arab group Kach, said she had no regrets despite being convicted of committing a racist act, harming religious sensitivities, supporting a terrorist group and endangering life by stoning a car. She put the posters up in the West Bank town of Hebron last June. (Reuters)



'Mama Doc' dies in France

Saint Cloud: Simone Duvalier, the wife of the former Haitian dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, has died near Paris aged 83. Mme Duvalier, dubbed "Mama Doc", had lived in France since 1986, when her son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc", was ousted from power in a coup after ruling for 15 years. Francois Duvalier became President of Haiti in 1956 and ruled until 1971, when he named his son as his successor. (AFP)

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WORLD OF LEATHER

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1997: a year of tears, betrayal...

Who could have predicted this time last year that 1997 would bring such dramatic swings of public emotion? Britain rejoiced with Tony Blair on May 2 — the winds of political change had restored a Labour Government for the first time in 18 years. Four months later, on a sunny morning, we mourned Diana, Princess of Wales. History may forget some of this year's movers, shakers and snapshots but, for the moment at least, says BILL FROST, we will not.



CONSPICUOUS CONSUMERS

VIKTOR KOZENY, Czech financier and restaurant legend. One lunch at the Mayfair's Le Gavroche set the so-called Pirate of Prague back more than £13,000, most of which was spent on wine. Food was taken and cigars selected from the humidor but, when the table is laden with bottles, little room is left for plates or ashtrays. Oasis wives Meg and Patsy Gallagher would be hard pressed to match such a daily total on lunch. However, their well-known fondness for designer labels and assorted gewgaws can reach similar heights. And there is plenty of time for the pair to go for a new record once the ghastly new year sales are over.

BABY OF THE YEAR

KARLI HAWTHORNE, snatched from Basildon Hospital hours after her birth then reunited with her parents. Tanya, the child's mother, said: "She cried all the way home, but the minute we set her down she started sleeping."

BAD SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER (no contest). Slamming his Ferrari across Jacques Villeneuve's Williams Renault dur-

ing the Spanish Grand Prix was described by veteran driver Stirling Moss as "quite appalling".

Villeneuve's verdict — even though he went on to win the world championship — was unprintable. Damon Hill — who was also deprived of the victor's laurels after a collision with Schumacher at the Adelaide circuit in 1994 — added: "Michael did something that was so blatant that it tarnished his great reputation. "Dragonian" punishments are imposed upon people for doing something that seems fairly innocuous to many, and at other times nothing is done at all."

BRAVERY AWARDS

SIX NOMINATIONS in this category, given in no particular order.

Ann Widdecombe's onslaught on Michael Howard, her former boss at the Home Office, was by any standards a bravura performance. The dismissal of Derek Lewis, former head of the Prison Service and alleged scapegoat for a number of embarrassing escapes and other crises, was "deplorable", said Miss Widdecombe. She accused Mr Howard of "distorting" a report on the service to justify the sacking. The former Home Secretary was "obsessively concerned with controlling events", she claimed.

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who saved children at a picnic from a man armed with a machete by shielding them with her own body, was told by the Queen: "Yours was absolute bravery." Miss Potts, awarded the George Medal for her courage and herself injured in the attack, is still in therapy.

Josie Russell saw her sister and mother murdered on a woodland path in Kent. She, too, suffered appalling injuries. Remarkably, she has recovered. Her hair, shaved off for surgery, has now regrown and the hats she wore to cover the scars have been abandoned.

For dignity in sadness at their mother's funeral: the Princes William and Harry.

For extraordinary energy during the general election campaign while suffering the pain of terminal illness: the late Sir James Goldsmith.

DIVORCEES OF THE YEAR

THE BILLIONAIRES' ex-wife known as the Bride of Wildenstein because of the plastic surgery she has undergone says she cannot survive on £30,000 a month. Jocelyne Wildenstein, 52, revealed that she could not possibly cope on anything less than £150,000 a month.

Lorna Wendt has no complaints, though. The Connecticut wife claimed her husband was worth £60 million and fought for half. She was awarded £13 million, the family mansion and a condominium in Key Largo.



THE DEATH of Diana, Princess of Wales, has — in theory at least — taught many to mend their ways. A new code of conduct — "the toughest in Europe" — has been introduced by the Press Council, and for paparazzo now read pariah. The tragedy jolted the royals into a

THE DIANA EFFECT

new mode, too — the Queen spoke movingly to the nation and the Prince of Wales mounted a charm offensive. Earl Spencer ticked off the tabloids at his sister's funeral and then lost the

moral high ground when details of his own unhappy marriage were revealed at a divorce hearing in Cape Town.

In death as in life, the Princess herself continues to fascinate. The scenes of public mourning and the mountains of flowers outside Kensington Palace will stay with us all.

REVELATION OF THE YEAR



JACQUELINE DU PRE, once arguably the world's finest cellist, was cast in a very different light by her brother and sister in their book *A Genius in the Family* (serialised exclusively in *The Times*).

They claimed that she was spoilt, manipulative and — where men were concerned — dangerous.

Her marriage to Daniel Barenboim was disintegrating when her sister, Hilary, allowed Jacqueline to sleep with her husband, Kiffer.

"Not to have done so would have precipitated Jacqueline into total breakdown," Hilary said.

"It was incredibly painful and very hard... but it is even harder to see a sister, who one loves very much indeed, at such an awful state of rock bottom."

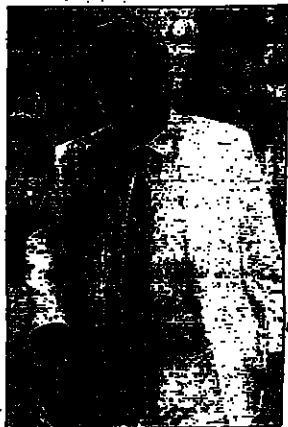
DOWNFALL OF THE YEAR

JONATHAN AITKEN endured humiliation and public vilification over his involvement with the Al Fayed *et al*. But he is still not short of a bob or two, so shed no tears.

His libel action against *The Guardian* collapsed when the former Treasury Secretary, who had famously claimed to be wielding the "sword of truth", was found to have lied under oath about his bill at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. He said that the tab had been picked up by his wife, while the newspaper alleged it had been met by a wealthy Arab businessman.

Aitken faced a legal bill of up to £2 million. He said when the case was withdrawn that he and his family had been "broken" by the affair — and at the same time split with his wife, Lolita.

CAREER CHANGE OF THE YEAR



MARTIN BELL, veteran BBC war correspondent, was elected anti-Spide MP for Tann. Neil Hamilton's formerly safe Tory seat in Cheshire.

"The people's choice, and I'm very proud," he said. Later he was to admit that politics was tougher than being in a battle zone.

Eric Cantona — remember him? The big, moody French bloke decided to ditch football in favour of the screen. However, his first film, *A Question of Honour*, received scant acclaim. "Tomorrow is another day," said the Manchester United star.

WELL-REHEARSED DEATH OF THE YEAR

COLUMNIST Jeffrey Bernard, the inspiration for Keith Waterhouse's play *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, who described his weekly column in *The Spectator* as a "suicide note by instalments".

The chain-smoking, heavy-drinking, gambling, womanising, silver-penned chronicler of Soho low life wrote an article ten years ago describing the sort of funeral that he wanted — a burial place in Westminster Abbey and massed pipe bands.

In the event, the service took place in a small chapel at the West London Crematorium in Kensal Green. His ashes were to be buried by the galleys at the Seven Barrows stables in Berkshire "so future generations of Derby winners can gallop over me".

SURVIVORS OF THE YEAR

NICOLA HORLICK, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager who made a spectacular flight to the company's Frankfurt office after being suspended, is now with Société Générale and has joined the luvvies — Channel 4 has asked her to head its efforts to find sponsorship and outside backers.

Stephen Fry, polymath actor, walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates* but still remains bankable, viz his starring role in the critically acclaimed film *Wilde*. "I'm not going to say I'm happy. I'm not going to say I'm in a complete state... I think I'm averagely in a state."

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SARTORIAL DISASTER

A HUSBAND and wife double award: the then-to-be Mrs William Hague's conference cocktail dress — or "Fion's frock" — and the Tory leader's absurd baseball cap, worn at the Notting Hill Carnival.

Fion's "see-through" number — short, black and lacy — was to have been the highlight of the Tory conference in Blackpool. In the event, the £2,000 frock failed to shock — short, yes, black, yes, lacy, yes. But not, unfortunately, flattering to Fion's figure.



SARTORIAL TRIUMPH



CHERIE BLAIR showed she was First Lady of fashion by outshining Hillary Clinton when the President and his wife visited London in May.

Both women opted for neutral shades, understated accessories and neatly buttoned coats. But Mrs Blair dazzled through in her £400 grey shift dress and matching coat with satin lapels. She teamed the outfit, by her favourite designer, Ronit Zilkha, with court shoes and a simple necklace.

"Ten out of ten for the lady from No 10," wrote one fashion editor. "Cherie was the clear winner." By comparison, Hillary's outfit looked as though it had been bought from some mid-market department store.

Runner-up: Fion Hague. That wedding dress, a figure-hugging sheath with draped neckline, cloak and short train, was sophisticated and sexy. Like the Blackpool number, it was the work of young London designer Neil Cunniff.

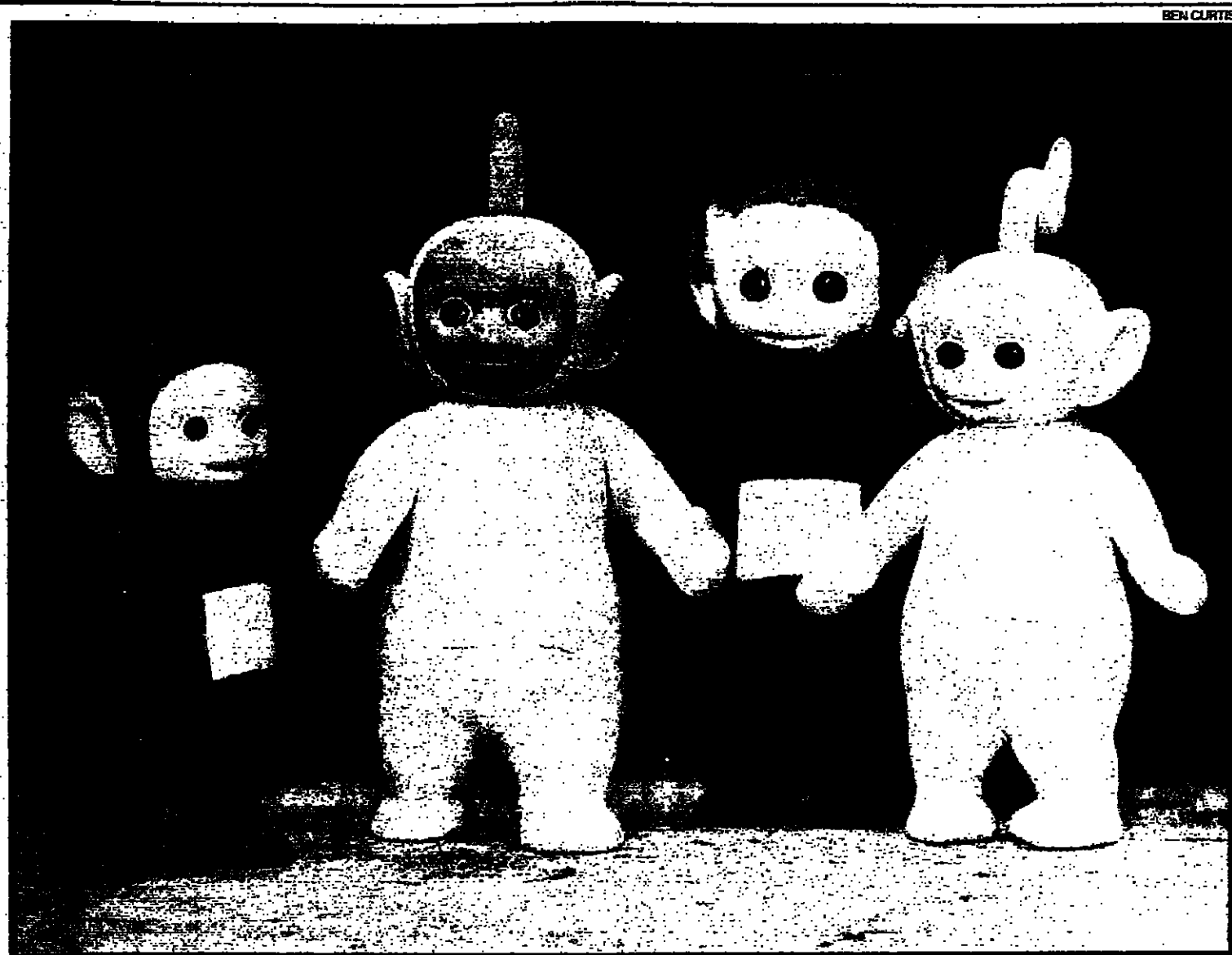
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BEN CURTIS

THIS LIFE. *Hotel, Teletubbies and The Full Monty.* An everyday story of young professionals getting out of their heads and being promiscuous. BBC's *This Life* became compulsive viewing. The last episode pulled out all the stops: our heroes were engaged in activities too

TV AND FILM SMASH HITS OF THE YEAR

sordid to mention in a family newspaper. *Hotel* gave staff at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool a weekly fix of stardom. However, it will be interesting to see how the bookings are

faring this time next year. *Teletubbies* time is now sacrosanct in almost every household with young children. *Laa Laa, Po, Tinky Winky* and *Dipsy* have become firmly entrenched fam-

ily favourites — they may be overweight and talk rubbish but at least they bring a few minutes' respite every day to beleaguered parents. *The Full Monty* was the surprise smash of the year

on both sides of the Atlantic. A troupe of former Sheffield steelworkers who have had enough of life on the dole decide to take their kit off for the girls and regain some dignity in the process — a low-budget production high on laughter and with bags of "feel-good" factor.

CELEBRITY DEATHS OF THE YEAR

THE murder of Gianni Versace in July at his Miami mansion exposed some of the strange excesses of the rich and famous.

The fashion designer, shot dead by 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan, was revealed as the "openly homosexual prince" of South Beach.

There was talk of mass orgies and drug abuse; a succession of young male consorts; the dark fantasies of a sadomasochistic culture. Still, he was mourned at his funeral by the great and the good — among them Diana, Princess of Wales.

The apparent suicide of Michael Hutchence also showed the darker side of celebrity and wealth.

Found hanging by his belt in a Sydney hotel room, the INXS rock star was said to have been high on drugs while entertaining an old flame.

Paula Yates, the minor league English celebrity he was to marry in 1998, said she would never get over his death. "Michael was the love of my life," she added.

A single tiger: Lily was among the flowers on his coffin — the couple's 16-month-old daughter is called Heavenly Hiraani Tiger



Lily, Ms Yates, who recently discovered she was the love child of the late game-show host Hughie Green, forgot

her pledge to wear widow's weeds and chose instead a revealing dress showing off her silicon-grown breasts.

SONG OF THE YEAR

CANDLE in the Wind — Elton John's tear-jerking revival of a 20-year-old song that made us all cry while watching the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

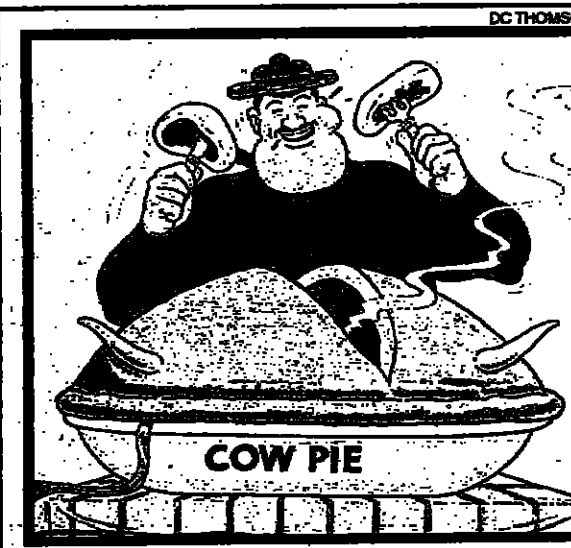
Runner up: *Say Eh-Oh*... the Teletubbies' first single was a smash. Few households with babies or small children failed to fall for Po and co's Christmas song. Next project, a world tour?

MISJUDGMENT OF THE YEAR

THE Duchess of York's attack on the Royal Family, on American television, for failing to invite her to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding bash. Sarah's antics and financial difficulties are a source of considerable irritation and embarrassment at Buck House still, so expect no reconciliation in the near future — if ever.

MOST PRETENTIOUS FILM OF THE YEAR

IT WON nine Oscars but let's face it, *The English Patient* was a yawner. Frederick Forsyth spoke for many when he called it "languid to the point of inertia, pretentious, self-indulgent and with all the authenticity of *The Wizard of Oz*". Quite.



DC THOMSON

HEALTH SCORE OF THE YEAR

BSE, AND NOW beef on the bone. Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham's ban on the latter has infuriated the meat industry and consumers alike.

A clandestine network of butchers across the country is still selling T-bone steaks and ribs as government inspectors admit that they are helpless to stop the trade.

More to the point, not everyone is convinced that the move was dictated by health concerns, could be more a case of having a tilt at our European partners.

DIVA OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL award goes to Geraldine "Kathman" waspish chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, for putting a bomb under the Royal Opera House in October with a lacerating report highlighting a performance of financial "incompetence".

Poor planning had plunged the company into the worst crisis of its 51-year history — the board resigned en masse, having run up debts of almost £5 million — and Mr Kaufman told them that "the Arts Council would be nuts to give you an extra penny until you have sorted yourselves out".

He attacked Mary Allen, the new chief executive, for saying that a larger public subsidy was needed.

The ROH's financial affairs were "a shambles" and the company was "wandering around London like the Flying Dutchman" in search of more cash to waste.

BETRAYAL OF THE YEAR

THE Blairs like cats, said the Prime Minister's spokesman after claims that Humphrey, Downing Street's very own mouser, had gone to meet his maker.

Reports, started by diarist and serial philanderer Alan Clark, that the animal's death warrant had been signed by Cherie Blair after the animal had soiled a designer frock were hotly denied.

Snap of the cat (complete with that day's newspaper to prove authenticity) taken at a secret location in southeast London have failed to satisfy everyone. The question remains: "Could Humphrey have been put to the sword for peeing on Cherie's dress?"

MOST WELCOME DEPARTURES FROM PUBLIC LIFE

JONATHAN AITKEN (also Downfall) and rightwinger David Evans. The former Treasury Secretary now wields no influence. A future role on the political stage is unlikely. Evans lost his seat last May. Mr Major was said to have cheered when he heard the result.

"Mr Mad", as the former MP for Welwyn Hatfield had been known, was notorious for his sexist and racist outbursts — Virginia Bottomley was "dead from the neck up" and his Labour rival "a single girl with three bastard children", he proclaimed.

DIGNITY IN DEFEAT

JOHN MAJOR: a speech that gave the man a gravitas he perhaps lacked while Prime Minister. You may not have liked his party, but in the small hours of May 2 his words made even the staunchest new Labour supporter feel sorry for him. And a tear for Chris Patten, the last emperor of Hong Kong. Let us hope Central Office finds him a safe seat, if such an option remains for a Tory candidate. Failing that, he may join the race to become elected mayor of London.

Michael Portillo: From the moment Margaret Thatcher's heir apparent heard that he had lost his Enfield Southgate seat to a man named Twigg, he became a model of dignity and restraint. The former Defence Secretary went from being an arrogant, quipped zealot while in office to a model of humility on the night of defeat.

"It was not put on, I promise," he said later. "I was devastated."



RONA MANSOY

BOUNDERS OF THE YEAR

EARL SPENCER'S treatment of his wife, Victoria — as revealed in the Cape Town divorce proceedings — may have angered every right-thinking woman. A real contender in this category.

Try this one for size, though: Nicole Contos was left at the altar when her fiancé bolted to Tahiti. Michael Tasos, an Anglo-Cypriot maritime lawyer, dumped his bride at the Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan then fled off on honeymoon by himself. Runner-up: Piers Merchant, married former Tory MP for Beckenham. His "friendship" with an 18-year-old Soho hostess — "she slept on the sofa" — came at a crucial pre-election point when sleaze and

the Tory party were synonymous. Mr Merchant described the teenager as a family friend and briefly convinced party bosses he was not a liability. However, further tabloid revelations about the relationship brought his political career to an abrupt end.

UGLY BLOKE OF THE YEAR

CHRIS EVANS, Di-cum-media mogul. He may have shelled out millions for Virgin Radio but he remains ginger and bespectacled.

Evans's on-air mix of ego-centric rambling, vulgarity and inanity continues to amuse some listeners, but can you fool all of the people all of the time?

And just in case you are tempted to harbour any lingering loyalty to the carrot-topped one, he failed to send his ten-year-old daughter, Jade, either a card or a present this Christmas.

And what does Jade think? Her verdict after seeing him on television news after the signing of the Virgin deal... "Oh — isn't he ugly!"

BORES OF THE YEAR

MR AND MRS Neil Hamilton, tarred with the Al Fayed brush. The Spice Girls: tart and dull.

The River Café, West London's most fashionable restaurant. Book a month in advance for messed-about food and pretentious company; as a disgruntled diner remarked: "A collision of inappropriate cuisines you need a mortgage for. Never again."



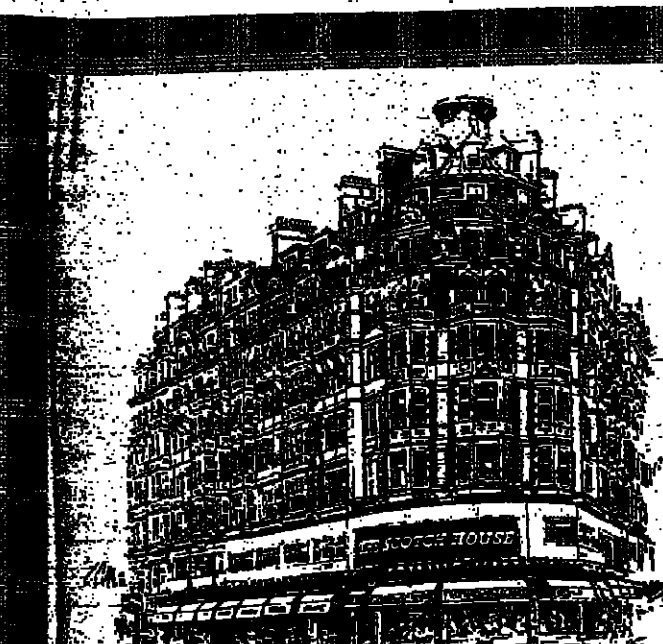
CHRIS HELOREN

NATIONAL TRAUMA OF THE YEAR

THE death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Seeing the card to "Mummy" on her coffin was, almost certainly, the most poignant moment of this or any year in recent history. The Queen's live broadcast summed up the feelings of a nation stricken by grief. "No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others, who never met her,

will remember her. I, for one, believe that there are lessons to be drawn from her life and from the extraordinary reaction to her death.

"May those who died rest in peace and may we, each and every one of us, thank God for someone who made many, many people happy."



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Count me out of the party, please

Philip Delves Broughton

explains why he will not be in the festive spirit tonight

As 1899 turned to 1900, Sigmund Freud was a man best avoided. He was telling anyone who looked too cheerful that the only thing they could be sure of in the next century was that they would die in it. Some may have told him to cheer up or get back to his couch. Others would have stared into the champagne going flat in their flutes and admitted that irritatingly, Sigmund once again had a point. In his roundabout way, he was saying what millions would agree with: new year celebrations are the pits.

As an excuse for a party, new year is an arbitrary and inconvenient date dictated simply by the calendar. It comes at the end of a period of extended gluttony and celebrating, and for many is little more than a final road hump to be negotiated before the blissful purge of January. It lacks the constituent essential to the best parties: that sense of release or achievement which comes at the end of something worth celebrating, a collective endeavour, whether in the office or on the tennis court, backstage at a school play or when England thump Holland 4-1 in Euro '96.

By contrast, the looming imperative to celebrate at new year is as appealing as a drunk on the bus telling you to "cheer up," because "it may never happen".

Then there is the guilt. Why else would there be such things as new year resolutions, if not to make you feel guilty about the way you lived the year gone by? Stop smoking, work harder, stop keeping your clothes in a heap on the floor and use the wardrobe. But the warm feeling generated by one's resolutions to right these wrongs soon dissolves into the realisation that they will all be back by mid-January.

As the millennium ends, the perennial state of new year fragility is being given grandiose titles: Millennial Anxiety, Pre-Millennial Tension or Millennial Malaise.

For a cult member who has decided to spend the year up to 2000 freezing on a mountain in Colorado in anticipation of the Second Coming, then anxiety is entirely understandable. Should the Messiah decide to delay his arrival for 12 months without warning, more Virgin than Virgin birth, an ensuing malaise would also be forgivable.

For the rest of us, however, the only thing millennial about the malaise is that the normal anxiety about how or with whom to bring in the new year is being exacerbated a thousand times over.

With the arrival of a new century or a new millennium, the insecurities endemic in new year deepen and yet the demand for celebrations grows louder.

By the time 2000 comes, Britain will be in a state of nervous breakdown, like a deeply insecure host, grinning wildly, turning up the music,

herding everyone into the Dome and forcing them to have a good time whether they damned well like it or not.

There is tonight and next year to rehearse. Then it will be time for the big one and Peter Mandelson will be out with his ledger: will you be a signed-up member of New Britain's, all singing, all dancing, rosy-dawned party class? Or will you be a curmudgeon, refusing to participate in the obligatory national rejoicing, looking to Greenwich and seeing nothing but Millennium Doom?

The Government, it seems, is conspiring with the nation's party-planners, off-licences and paper hat suppliers to divide the country into those who will be attending a party and those who will not.

If national unity is what they are after, whether for their own political motives or a genuine desire for the greatest happiness of the greatest number, they could not have chosen a worse time.

The German Protestant theologian Paul Tillich argued in the 1950s that anxiety rose as civilisations declined. He described three periods of anxiety which gripped the whole of society. From Alexander the Great until the fall of Rome, men suffered from "the anxiety of fate and death".

The only means to overcome it was by performing insane acts of courage. Next came the Middle Ages and the anxiety brought on by fear of the wrath of God and the accompanying trend to guilt and condemnation.

Finally, and this is what we are suffering from, there is the anxiety brought on by victory in war, the rise of liberal democracy, pluralism and lives made easier by technology. This, Tillich called "the anxiety of emptiness and meaninglessness". Typical gloom-mongering from a German Protestant theologian, perhaps. Then again, like other Eeyore, Freud, he may have been on to something.

There is nothing especially millennial about most things said to contribute to pre-millennial tension. We just happen to be in one of Tillich's troughs, irrespective of the date. Global warming, short-term job contracts, loose nuclear weapons and impenetrable Microsoft packages would all be with us whatever we decided to call the date.

What would not remain would be the night of December 31, 1999, which now stands as the supreme test of the nation's sociability. There will be no escape to the Indian Ocean for Tony Blair then.

But on January 1, 2000, it will all be over. The millennial tension will have fallen from the nation's shoulders, and we will be able to resume our normal duty for another thousand years. Now that would be an excuse to unscrew the lambrusco for a party.

Alan Coren's column will appear on Friday.

It is all as appealing as a drunk telling you to cheer up



The year the world turned

Alistair Horne casts an eye back to the turbulent events of 1968

Thirty years ago, January 1 was to ring in one of the most troublesome and nasty, yet exciting, periods of the post-war era. 1968 was the year of violent student revolt, and of assassination. It determined the defeat of America in Vietnam and the fall of de Gaulle. It also displayed the fissures that were to bring the whole Soviet monolith toppling two decades later.

Some caught up in it likened 1968 to that other year of revolution, 1848, when old political structures across Europe collapsed like the walls of Jericho.

In Paris in the last week of February, 1848, three days of totally unexpected demands brought down the liberal Louis-Philippe, last King of France. Given the paucity of communications, what was remarkable about 1848, was how revolution in Paris spread in a simultaneous shockwave across Europe. In Vienna the seemingly immortal Metternich — who had given Europe its past three decades of peace — was deposed.

In Britain alone revolution proved a damp squib: a demo of an alleged half-million Chartists mustering on the South Bank to march on Parliament was headed off by a combination of the Iron Duke's brilliant strategy and London rain.

By the end of 1848, except for Britain, there were dictators in almost every country of Europe.

Back to 1968: January: In America Dr Benjamin Spock, of nursery fame, was indicted for anti-draft activities, while in Russia the writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn was jailed for "slandering the State". Both were indications of what 1968 held in store.

On the 31st the Vietcong seized advantage of the traditional new year's Tet celebrations to launch a major co-ordinated series of attacks on South Vietnamese cities. Briefly, it looked as if the Vietcong had won. But the US forces reacted with vigour, inflicting a clear-cut defeat on the Vietcong.

None of this was seen in America, however, nor did Americans want to see it. A much greater impact was made by the photograph of the brutal public execution of a young Vietcong suspect, while President Johnson's decision to send another 50,000 troops to Vietnam was taken as sure sign that Tet had been a Communist victory. Campuses across America erupted.

February: France's Jean-Claude Killy won three golds in the Winter Olympics; three East German com-

petitors were disqualified for heating the runners of their toboggan. Richard Nixon announced he would run for President in 1968. But America was stunned by the announcement that President Johnson, worn down by Vietnam and anti-war protest, would not be a candidate. March: Polish police clashed with students demonstrating for greater freedom in Czechoslovakia Communist Party chief Alexander Dubcek sparked off the heady Prague Spring by relaxing press censorship and arresting the chief of police. For a few rapturous weeks it looked as if

al. With more than 130,000 students crammed into desperately overcrowded classrooms, the education was archaic. There was little contact with the professors, unmotivated by either obligations or sanctions. The primary object of the rebel students was to establish student power within the Sorbonne, secondarily to achieve sexual freedom within the precincts. On May 5 the Paris police closed down the Sorbonne, arresting 500 students. They over-reacted, causing many hundreds of casualties (miraculously, no deaths). The students took to the streets, supported by some professors and parents.

In Paris the students rioted — in London they just sang Auld Lang Syne

In Germany a left-wing student, Rudi Dutschke, was shot in the head by a gunman claiming to emulate the King shooting. Dutschke survived, but the shooting triggered off student riots across Germany. May: First reports in Britain that student unrest was spreading to Paris were eclipsed by arrest of the Kray brothers, by Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech, and by news that the Greek Colonels had sacked 14 government ministers after a "subversive" report on matchboxes. But, suddenly, on the tenth anniversary of de Gaulle's coming to power, it was apparent that all France was being rocked by *les événements* at the Sorbonne.

Trouble had started back in February at Nanterre, a particularly drab suburban campus where sociology predominated, under left-wing professors, though most of the students came (by car) from the essentially bourgeois arrondissements of western Paris. With a few hundred supporters, revolt was carried from Nanterre to the Sorbonne by a red-headed firebrand, Dany Cohn-Bendit, who was not even French, but the son of affluent German-Jews.

At the Sorbonne, Cohn-Bendit found the most inflammable materi-

revived) appeared everywhere. The Government was caught totally unprepared. De Gaulle was in Romania; Premier Pompidou in Afghanistan. By the third week in May, Paris was paralysed, with no petrol in the pumps and food running short. Students tried to take the revolt to the big Renault works at Billancourt, but, with the might of Communist Party just as much off balance as the Government, the unions declined to follow the Sorbonne's lead.

In what seemed like panic and without telling his Prime Minister for a moment, Pompidou thought he was doing a Louis-Philippe flit, on Wednesday, May 29, de Gaulle flew mysteriously to Baden-Baden — to get the support of General Massu and the French Army in Germany. On the Thursday he returned, making the last powerful radio appeal of his career. That evening the Champs-Élysées filled with a hundred-thousand pro-Gaullists.

By the 31st order had been restored and France's most frightening week since the war was over. Attention shifted to the Vietnam peace talks, also under way in Paris. In Britain revolt hit Essex University — but it was a pale reflection of the Sorbonne. June: An art-loving actress shot Andy

Warhol, unsuccessfully. Two days later Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles by a 24-year-old Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan. August: Russian tanks crossed into Czechoslovakia.

September: Prague returned to the grip of Moscow winter as censorship of the press was reimposed. In London the cast of *Hair* stripped the day after play censorship was abolished.

October: 250,000 marched on the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square in an anti-Vietnam demonstration. As in 1848, fears of revolution in London proved exaggerated; the demo ended good-humouredly, with marchers linking arms with the police and singing *Auld Lang Syne*.

John Lennon and Yoko Ono were arrested on drugs charges, and Jackie Kennedy married Aristotle Onassis.

November: Nixon elected President; LBJ in his last act ordered an end to bombing in Vietnam. In a final protest against Soviet repression, Prague students occupied the university. Enid Blyton died.

December: Apollo 8 made the first flight around the Moon.

In the words of the popular anti-war song of those days, where did all the flowers of 1968 go? Some became ageing hippies, or nurtured the politically correct in the universities. Alexander Dubcek disappeared into exile, but survived; Czechoslovakia, along with the rest of Eastern Europe, regained its freedom 20 years later.

In France, after the "Events of May" — as in Brezhnev's Soviet Union — the Communist Party went into a terminal decline. De Gaulle fell the following year. Nixon abandoned Vietnam to its fate, five years later.

Of the 1968 revolutionaries, Rudi Dutschke became the godfather of the Greens in Germany, before dying of his 1968 head wounds. Cohn-Bendit also followed a political career in Germany, and is now a respectable Green city councillor in Frankfurt. Britain's student revolutionary, Tariq Ali, disillusioned by the British working class, became a prosperous media mogul.

In Paris, the Sorbonne suffered few reforms; with Mitterrand, followed by unemployment, few students remained in revolutionary mode. Unlike that other revolutionary year of 1848, no West European nation succumbed to revolt, or to dictatorship.

Alistair Horne is the author of *How Far from Austerlitz?* (Napoleon 1805-1915).

There will be no obit

There will be no obituary of my father in *The Times*. He was not quite good enough at cricket or cards, although he played both well when he was young. He was named after my grandfather's Yorkshire hero, Wilfred Rhodes, but lost quickly both the Wilfred and the highest ball-spinning ambitions. From soon after he was born on April 21, 1925, to soon after 2.30 on Monday afternoon, December 29, he answered to the name Max.

A man of his age might reasonably have booked his space on the obituaries page during the war. My father set out for war when he was supposed to have been setting out as a student. He joined the Royal Navy despite all his family's efforts to keep him at home. But he sailed away to West Africa on a ship called *HMS Aberdeen*. He bought red-leather knife cases and postcards of Dakar's six-domed cathedral and never fired a hostile shot except at a basking shark. He was lucky, he said; but that was then.

When he was not shooting fish or trading cans for trinkets, he studied the young science of radar, watching the many curious ways that waves behave in the air above the sea. He was not a radar pioneer in the sense that our obituaries would require. He was one of thousands who fiddled with diodes, quartz and wire to make radar work. That was how he spent most of the rest of his life.

He returned to England when the war was won and took up the place at Nottingham University which he had won before. He hated and bowed and played bridge and studied physics. He had a striped blue-green-yellow blazer, which he bequeathed to his son long before this week and which made it easier for my friends to recognise me at Oxford in the Seventies in the dark. It will go in turn to his beloved granddaughter or grandson — whichever might want it first.

He had a brain which engineers described as Rolls-Royce. It was powerful but he did not like to test it beyond a pure. On July 17, 1950, he joined the Marconi Company at its research laboratory in Great Baddow, Essex, on a salary of £340 per year. He worked on many and various half-forgotten, half-successful, mostly never needed air defence systems that protected British skies during the Cold War. He reasoned through his problems in an armchair at home, spreading files marked "Secret" like fishermen's nets. He preferred to solve technical glitches in series not in parallel. He found solutions singly. He hated to stress the machinery of his mind.

Later he became a manager for Marconi and a salesman whom, in my own too simple student days, I would call an arms salesman. He travelled and loved to travel. He came to know thousands of fellows in the science of spotting fast-moving objects in the sky. He loved Marconi, and later the Ericsson Radar Company, for whom he worked in his retirement. He had space in his purring life for hundreds to be his friend. But he long did not seek the advancement that an obituary would wish; and latterly, when he sought it, he did not find it.

He sometimes misunderstood people. He liked to see them as electro-mechanism, as fundamentally capable of simple, selfless working. He was closed to the communications of art. His favourite picture was a photograph of an oil-production platform being towed through a ford. He listened to no music. He was especially offended by the violin and the soprano voice. His passions were for moving parts, moving balls, jet-streams in the skies over air shows, Channels' golf club, the Royal Marines and Beutys restaurant on St Martin's Lane. Other minds were not his pasture.

If I had asked him his own list of passions this week, it would have been headed by the Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford, whose powers of love and peace-bringing should be celebrated in sky-written letters of gold. Their nurses saved his death. He claimed that he had never had a dream until the painkillers for his prostate cancer brought him dreams, too. On Monday he died peacefully in dimorphic dreams.

Thirty years ago, when I was setting off for Oxford to study Latin and Greek, he gave me his own father's copy of the second six books of Virgil's *Aeneid*. The name B. Stothard, in firm now faded hand, still sits inside the flyleaf. My wonderful father did not much care for Latin or for my studying it. But he never tried to stop me. He never closed a gate. I felt guilt this week when the best farewell that I could say was in the adapted words of Catullus "atque in perpetuum, pater, ave atque vale". I think he heard it.

Atque in perpetuum there is no need for an obituary in *The Times*.

PETER STOTHARD

Star billing

PLEASE do not tell the Lord Chancellor, but Cherie Booth has joined a campaign to increase the legal aid bill. Ms Booth has signed up to an outfit which is determined to boost the already burgeoning bill — just as my old friend Lord Irvine of Lairg tries to trim the cost. Before paddling off to the Seychelles, Cherie pledged her support for the Equal Opportunity Action Unit which — naughtily — wants to boost funds for moaning employees at tribunals. Ministers seek to scrap legal aid in most civil cases, to save £800 million a year. But the EOAU wants to increase the bill by allowing legal aid to those claiming money from employers. Happily, this would give more to £1,000-a-day employment lawyers — including Ms Booth.

Margaret McCabe, EOAU chairwoman, says: "Cherie is one of a number of leading lawyers who have come together to suggest changes so that employment law truly provides access to justice." Cherie knows about minorities. She made her debut before the European Court defending a lesbian railworker's girlfriend. The group also wants to offer mentors to lawyers. Irvine performed that role for Tony Blair and Ms Booth, who tolled in his chambers — extending his services to playing matchmaker.

THE ghost of General Patton lives on in Wales. A monoplane he flew in the war now belongs to



Shhhh... Cherie, Irvine

Maurice "Captain" Kirk, friend of the bibulous Oliver Reed, who buzzes over the Valleys. He has just had an accident, leaving him wedged in a hedge up a 400ft hill. "The plane was flying backwards," he explains. "The 90mph headwind was faster than my top speed."

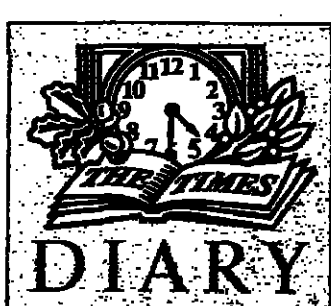
Hail, caesar

MANY were surprised by the sudden promotion of Alan Johnson,

the new Labour MP, to his first government job. I can suggest a reason. He recently acquired a fashionable "caesar" haircut, the close-cropped style modelled by Tony Blair. Word spread of the ultra-loyal crin belonging to the man dubbed "Blair's favourite union leader" when boss of the communication workers. "What can I say except 'Et tu, Brute'," says the new MP to Dawn Primarolo, Treasury Minister. "A change of haircut is a very underestimated facet of modern politics. I doubt many Tory MPs could emulate their leader." Now that the makeover has served its purpose, Johnson feels free to speak about his Blair-cut. "Tony sweeps his hair back over the top, what's left of it. He's trying to cover up a bald patch," says the soon-to-be demoted MP.



Trimmer: Johnson



AT 6ft 5in, Will Self, the drug user and writer, is two inches taller than he was ten years ago. "It could be that I have grown out of my knuckle-grazing days," he crooned. "Or it could simply be the result of all my clean living and plenty of exercise."

First addition

A NEWSPAPER dynasty is emerging in the aristocratic climes of Essex, in Theydon Bois. David Sullivan, proprietor of the lurid but lucrative *Sport* newspapers, has become a proud father. The happy gurgles of David Edward Kenneth Sullivan are now echoing through Sullivan Towers, a £7 million mansion resplendent with zebra-covered banquettes. The mother has been identified as Emma Benton-Hughes. "She's not

a toff. She runs a fan club for Page 3 Girls and she used to be one herself. I don't know if we will get married but the important thing is that young David grows up healthy and happy," he says.

The future of the Sullivan publishing empire could lie with the new addition. "I won't push him into newspapers but I would be happy for him to read the *Sport* after he is eight."

A CHANGE of (London) address card arrives from Lord St John of Fawley, listing the number of his "electric telephone".

Leaky John

EARLY reports that Elton John is to receive a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List have disturbed Buck House. Not only is such a momentous award to be bestowed upon a mere song and dance man but news of his elevation began to leak a fortnight ago. Previous Governments have maintained a strict embargo. The Palace has suspicions about the source of the leaks. "I would speak to No 10 about it," suggested a spokesman. Downing Street was being particularly coy for once. "We will address the issue of a leak." Just don't expect a terribly far-reaching inquiry by that nice Alistair Campbell.



Great Dane: Cecile

AN ACTRESS' whose energetic manoeuvres light up the latest James Bond saga has become a heroine in her native Denmark. Cecile Thompson, who puts 007 through his linguistic paces in Tomorrow Never Dies, has been chosen by the Nordic tourist board as the face of Denmark for an advertising campaign. "Denmark is very proud because Bond girls have always been Swedish, Norwegian or Russian," she says. Never again, I suspect. Happy New Year.

JASPER GERARD



MAYHEM AND MOI

Kenya's only sensible course is to hold fresh elections

Even by the miserable standards that Kenyans have become accustomed to, this week's presidential, parliamentary and local government elections have been a disgrace. The campaign itself may have been less violent than that for Kenya's first multi-party elections in 1992, although people have still been intimidated, gassed and killed and things organised by the ruling KANU party have made some parts of the country no-go areas for opposition candidates. The bill may be less ruinous than it was in 1992, when President Daniel arap Moi is estimated to have spent the cost of President Clinton's re-election campaign, and financed it by running the printing presses. But the Government has announced unaffordable pay rises for the public sector, and there has been massive vote-buying, particularly by KANU, in a blatant attempt to settle the outcome well ahead of polling day.

The elections were thus never going to be "free and fair" by any reasonable criteria. What has reduced them to a farce, however, is the chaos at the polling booths. Kenyans turned out on Monday in far higher numbers than had been predicted, given the poor prospects of unseating Mr Moi, only to find polling stations shut because ballot papers and boxes had not arrived or election officials had failed to turn up. Many opened hours late or not at all, and when they did, many electoral rolls were incomplete.

As complaints poured in, Kenya's formally independent Election Commission extended voting into Tuesday in constituencies affected by "logistical" problems. But this only increased the confusion because it did not say where voting was to continue, where it had ended, or when vote-counting could start in different parts of the country. The instruction, in any case, never reached most rural areas; and even yesterday, many stations still had no ballot papers. Used as they

are to being bribed and browbeaten, Kenyan voters have this time been insulted beyond endurance. No one ascribes to this mere incompetence. As the respected *Daily Nation* delicately put it, these "Chaplinesque" failures have been "so widespread and so varied as to raise suspicions concerning the honesty of the exercise".

Mr Moi himself has joined the chorus of opposition complaints and accused the commission of rigging the elections. If he believes that, he ought immediately to have annulled the elections and ordered a rerun. It is of course possible that his anger is genuine, that he fears that incompetence has upset well-aided KANU plans to "organise" the vote. But since KANU officials have ruled out cancellation, the President's claim that the rigging was "in favour of the Opposition" rings hollow. The truth is more likely to be that Mr Moi is confident of victory, at least in the presidential race, judging that the Opposition is so divided that he stands to win even if most Kenyans vote against him. Recognising that malpractice cannot this time be denied, he may be aiming to calm popular anger by shifting the blame on to the commission.

For Kenya, his cynicism could be perilous. This has been a bitter electoral battle in a country that is broke, shorn of illusions and impatient for real reform. That is why crowds have flocked to Charity Ngilu, the fearless presidential candidate who stands out as untainted in a country where corruption is endemic. After last summer's violent suppression of demonstrations, Mr Moi was forced to bend to demands for constitutional reform but, with constituency boundaries drawn in KANU's favour and up to three million young voters likely to vote for the Opposition left off the new register, these have meant little in practice. If hope is denied, violence could return. As Kenyans know, wounded beasts are dangerous.

STEADY, EDDIE

The Governor should resist raising interest rates further

Governors of the Bank of England are paid to be cryptic. The biggest sin for a Governor — as bad as a Chancellor giving away Budget secrets — is to let slip an opinion on the future direction of interest rates. So it was that City traders pored over Eddie George's interview on the *Today* programme yesterday for rumour hints as to which way rates would go. By the evening they were still unsure: would the economy slow down of its own accord, or was the Governor planning to help it to do so with a rate rise?

What is uncontested is that the economy needs to slow down in 1998. It cannot keep up the past year's rate of growth without a resurgence of inflation. But the critical question is whether interest rates need to rise still further — on top of the five increases since the general election — or whether the action taken so far will prove to be enough to produce a slowdown without a recession: what economists like to call a "soft landing".

Mr George sees risks on both sides. If rates are not raised again, there is the risk of inflation. If they are, there is the risk of recession. The balance between the two risks, however, should not be seen as equal. It makes more sense to err on the side of optimism, to assume that inflation is a lesser danger than recession.

Almost all the economic indicators point that way. Consumer spending before Christmas was modest — and if it picks up in the sales, that shows that bargain-hunting is still the prevalent mentality, a healthy sign for inflation. House prices are growing only slowly, and the increase is predicted to

flatten out next year. Yesterday's figures on mortgage lending confirm that the housing market is calming down.

Meanwhile, exports are beginning to suffer as a result of the pound's strength, which is proving a less temporary phenomenon than many in the City had expected. And the crisis in the Far East is likely to have a deflationary effect on all Western economies over the coming year.

It may also be time to reassess our assumptions about how much unemployment can fall before prices start to rise. In the United States, economists spent years falsely predicting a return of inflation because they did not believe that the economy could function healthily with unemployment at such low levels. Similarly, many economists here were suggesting a year ago that unemployment could fall no further without inflation taking hold. It has, and prices are still under control.

It looks as if the supply-side measures taken by the Conservatives really have reduced the safe rate of unemployment. And the Welfare to Work programme may cut it still further. But there is no way of testing how low it can fall if bankers continue to work on old assumptions, and raise interest rates before the bottom has been reached.

Mr George and his Monetary Policy Committee have so far taken the right decisions. We trust that they will continue to do so in 1998. The peak in interest rates should by now have been reached. The Bank can afford to sit back and watch its past actions take effect.

STAFF OF LIFE

In the British breadbin less consumption means more choice

Fifty years ago bread rationing was ended. Today that sounds like a statistic from a nutritionist. But in 1948 it was the sign that the lean years of hunger were finally coming to an end. Now that 50 years have passed, the choice of our daily bread is greater than ever but its place on our tables less conspicuous.

Other rationed goods such as butter and sugar, meat and marmalade were missed more keenly. But Corporal Joneses also kept bread "under the counter". And the Ministry of Food invented Potato Pete to encourage people to eat one of the few foods not in short supply. His recipes on the Kitchen Front recommended mashed potato sandwiches.

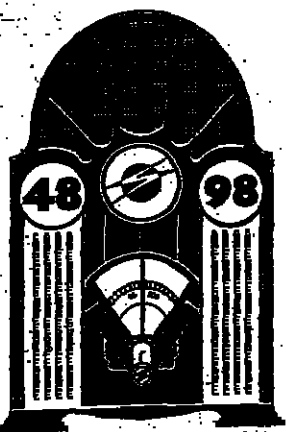
Even after the war, rationing was cut again. Supplies of essential foods now had to be shared with the liberated but starving continental countries. Rationing, high taxes and shortages had bitten deep into the way of life of the average family. Britons had reduced their consumption of food to four-fifths of their peacetime level. To ration bread, one of the oldest and cheapest forms of Western food, was as serious as it was in ancient Rome. So the return of white bread without coupons instead of the gritty, grey "Austerity" loaf, was a national landmark.

Since 1948 consumption of bread has more than halved. Today *Economist* statistics estimate the weekly household consumption in Great Britain at 758 grammes per person. Bread now represents 4 per cent of domestic spending on food, costing £1.991

million a year. For 50 years ago you should treble that percentage and the amounts in pounds avoidpounds and sterling in real terms. In 1948 a "doorstep" of bread with a scrape of dripping was a healthy treat to make the mouth water. Today it would give the nanny state a heart attack. Fifty years ago sliced bread was a novel luxury. But by 1981 Sainsbury's ran a campaign that added to British idiom: "The best thing since the invention of sliced bread — unsliced bread."

If bread has declined as a percentage of the household budget and as padding for the diet of the growing child, it has branched out into a thousand designer bakes. Such traditional loaves as the bloomer and the split-tin survive. But to them have been added the French baguette, the German pumpernickel, and the Italian ciabatta or "slipper" bread, stuffed with olives or sundried tomatoes. Today bread comes in shapes and grains undreamed of 50 years ago. Poppadums and chapatis are among the most popular varieties of bread, just as curry has replaced roast beef (especially on the bone) as the traditional English dish.

Bread will probably continue to rise for the next 50 years, in variety if not in volume of sales or importance to the national diet. More choice will provide breads for all tastes and fads. Man still does not live by bread alone. But, in spite of the priggish strictures of the nutritional bibles, he will have an ever-increasing choice of his daily bread.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Main obstacle to Ulster stability

From Mr J. F. Q. Switzer

Sir, You rightly compliment the Northern Ireland Secretary on having "wisely but belatedly" acknowledged the need to "move quickly to rebuild confidence among Northern Ireland's peaceable pro-Union majority" (leading article, December 29). That peaceable majority has felt increasingly deserted, particularly since the disastrous statement by Peter Brooke, then Northern Ireland Secretary, in a speech on November 9, 1990, that the Government had "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland".

This was certainly interpreted by the IRA and by Irish nationalists generally as meaning that the Government no longer cared about sovereignty, and the stream of concessions to republicans during the current political talks has helped to convince everyone, Unionists and nationalists alike, that that interpretation was correct.

In the background stands the Constitution of the Republic, which states that "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland". It is intolerable that we should have representatives of the Dublin Government taking part in discussions on the future of a part of our country when they already lay claim to jurisdiction over it.

Furthermore, these representatives have their hands tied by the decision of the Dublin Supreme Court in March 1990 that "the reintegration of the national territory is a constitutional imperative". Genuine discussions between the Republic and the United Kingdom are thus rendered impossible.

In the Downing Street declaration of December 15, 1993, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland made "a solemn commitment to promote co-operation... on the basis of... obligations under international agreements" (report, December 16, 1993). The Irish claim to British territory is not only incompatible with the Republic's membership of the European Union but patently contravenes the provisions of the Helsinki Agreement.

The most important single action that our new Government could take to re-establish political stability in Northern Ireland is to persuade the Dublin Government to adopt an ethical foreign policy in conformity with the Downing Street declaration and to repudiate its illegal claim to British territory.

The United Kingdom is about to assume the presidency of the European Union. Can we now hope for speedy action in Brussels to end a constitutional absurdity that has no place in the Europe of 1998?

Yours faithfully,
J. F. Q. SWITZER,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge CB2 3HU.
December 30.

Maze inquiry

From Mr Oliver A. W. Lodge

Sir, Appointing HM Chief Inspector of Prisons to conduct an inquiry into security at the Maze prison (report, December 30) is certainly a positive step, but it cannot be for him to attribute ultimate responsibility when the prison authorities have already recognised specific deficiencies by introducing random searches of cells. Is no one going to resign, or is it a wait-and-see-who-gets-blamed policy?

One does not have to have an elephantine memory to recollect that before coming to office the Labour Party firmly held the view that ministers, indeed Cabinet ministers, should resign when serious breaches of prison security arose. May we know what has changed their minds?

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER A. W. LODGE,
2 Nimrod Road, SW16 6SY.
December 30.

Prison education

From Dr Paul G. Ellis

Sir, May I suggest a further step beyond Lord Parker's suggestion (article, *Letter*, December 16; letters, December 22) of offering prisoners the option of studying for an educational qualification as a condition for a lesser sentence.

Why not go the whole way — prisoners qualify for earlier release not merely by studying for an educational qualification, but by educating themselves into an improved, approved and appropriate career/job offer which will enable them not only to support themselves, but to do so better than formerly?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL G. ELLIS,
c/o City University Business School,
Sebastien Street, EC1V 9JA.
ellis@city.ac.uk

Home births

From Mr Paul Ketteridge

Sir, The nursing home I was born in (letters, December 16, 22) is now an old people's home. No doubt they will have me back.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KETTERIDGE,
Bankside Cottage, 7 Church Street,
North Marston MK18 3PH.
December 27.

The Church's role in hunting debate

From Mr N. R. Cowling

Sir, According to the RSPCA, "at least 200,000 foxes are killed every year by shooting, snaring or road accidents. Only about 15,000 are killed by hunting." (*Times* advertisement, November 17).

The Archbishop of Wales and his colleagues (letter, December 26) urge the Government to legislate against hunting, which accounts for about 7 per cent of violent fox deaths, even though this would cause unemployment and homelessness. They express no concern for the 93 per cent of foxes which meet painful and terrifying deaths by means other than hunting.

Meanwhile I have seen it estimated that the largely urban and suburban pet cats of Britain kill about 70 million wild birds every year. Unlike the fox, many of these are in declining populations because of man's relentless exploitation of their habitats.

Is there any chance of a pamphlet from the Christian Socialist Movement on the place of wild birds in modern Britain and the ethics of keeping cats?

Yours faithfully,
N. R. COWLING,
Easton Cottage, Long Lane,
Manaton, Newton Abbot TQ13 9XB.
December 28.

From Mr Paul M. Cooper

Sir, I am a churchgoer in a rural community that has used the horse for transport, agriculture and pleasure for many generations. The Christian Socialist Movement, based in London, should surely be a unifying and non-divisive organisation.

In this normally tolerant land what has happened to freedom of choice — hunting, T-bone steaks, doorsteps?

Yours etc.,
PAUL M. COOPER,
Millstream Cottage, Mill Lane,
Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 8DJ.
December 26.

From Mrs Binda Large

Sir, The Archbishop of Wales and others refer to the 8th-century French bishop, St Hubert, "who was prompted by his Christian vocation to renounce deerhunting as a sport". This would appear most unlikely since St Hubert, in the Roman Catholic world, continues to be patron of huntsmen. The legend that the stag he was

hunting one Good Friday had a cross between his antlers is said to have caused him to enter the cloister and duly become Bishop of Liège, but it seems that this may not have interfered with his subsequent hunting.

I once visited a small country church in southwest France at the time of his feast day, November 3, and was interested to see branches of greenery stacked against the altar, together with a large pair of antlers.

Yours faithfully,
BINDA LARGE,
Vine Cottage,
Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5PA.
December 29.

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, Many will share the bishops' view that how we treat animals is a moral question. It has nothing to do with what the law allows or forbids. Even the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, which many had hoped would protect many species, classifies them according to their economic value.

Hence foxes are pursued because they threaten livestock. Myxomatosis (which has caused untold suffering to millions of rabbits) was arguably introduced when arable farming was financially threatened. Badgers, another protected species, are not allowed to threaten valuable milk supplies. The export of calves, which has seen widespread public condemnation, exists for economic reasons. Even the beef crisis is discussed not so much in terms of animal suffering as of the (quite justifiable) concern for farm livelihoods.

Every species is given its price. Let us not pretend otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,
32 Upper Street, Salisbury SP2 8LY.

From the Reverend Canon Brian Hebblethwaite

Sir, I am sorry that Bishop Montefiore (letter, December 26) should see the fate of the fox and of the battery hen in either/or terms. Surely, as a good Anglican, he should have seen this as a both/and matter and signed both the letters you published.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HEBBLETHWAITE,
Queens' College,
Cambridge CB3 9ET.
December 26.

Doorstep ban

From Professor John R. Argue

Sir, I was amazed to read of new regulations announced by the Construction Minister, Nick Raynsford, to make "level thresholds" mandatory on all new homes (report, December 5; letters, December 12). While the prime reason for the change — wheelchair access — is undoubtedly laudable, the serious consequences for flooding of floors at ground level (letter, December 24) should not be overlooked.

Underground sewers which carry "foul" water and stormwater in Britain are designed, typically, to overflow "once in two years" to "once in five years", that is between 20 and 50 times per century. Ground-level floors would experience much greater risk of entry by highly polluted water than "stepped" floors, particularly in "row" housing.

Australian practice in this matter (Institution of Engineers, Australia) is for floor levels of domestic, commercial and public buildings to be set at least 300mm (1 foot) above the estimated level of the "once in 100 years" stormwater flood. Furthermore, stormwater in Australian urban street drainage systems is separated from foul water flows.

The best explanation for the survival of British households in the face of urban flooding is undoubtedly the doorstep which, in technical parlance, represents a sound form of "flood-proofing".

The Victorian engineers and builders, as in so many other instances of urban infrastructure, knew very well what they were about. Surely, today's professionals can solve the problem of wheelchair access without compromising the flood security of British households? Mr Raynsford's new regulations need to await such a solution.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. ARGUE
(Associate Professor of
Water Engineering,
University of South Australia),
c/o 36 Kilwardby Street,
Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2FQ.
December 29.

Tables turned

From Mr W. A. Low

Sir, The changes in French eating habits which you report in your paper today ("Parisians desert restaurants as London turns the tables") are not new in my experience.

Ten years ago I was lamenting in a restaurant in Coulon in the Vendée that the lunch I had had was nothing like as good as one I had eaten three years before. The proprietor agreed, saying that the French were no longer prepared to spend either the time or the money on eating. This was not the only restaurant where this explanation was given.

Eating in France has changed out of all recognition in the last 40 years. It is now probably easier to get *petits pois à la française* in England than in France.

The French no longer seem to want to eat vegetable dishes, and their meals are the poorer for it. They have also taken to piling everything on the plate, whereas they used to serve it separately, bringing the dish in which it had been cooked to the table so that one could help oneself — and wipe one's bread round in the gravy.

It is still a pleasure to eat in France, but nothing like the pleasure it used to be.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. LOW,
65/66 Regency Square,
Brighton, Sussex BN1 2FF.
December 23.

From Professor J. F. Lazenby

Sir, I can assure Professor Larnier that there is absolutely no reason why someone sailing the Adriatic in 1270 should not have used the expression "we made wings of our oars".

The metaphorical use of "wings" for oars goes back at least as far as Homer, some 2,000 years before Dante.

Teiresias tells Odysseus to find a shipless people who have "no oars, which are like wing feathers to ships" (*Odyssey* X).

Yours faithfully,
J. F. LAZENBY,
University of Newcastle,
Department of Classics,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
December 23.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Complaint of flaw in honours system

From Mr John B. J. Lidstone

Sir, Simon Jenkins (December 27) depairs of the present honours system. When John Major's "classless" society failed to bring about any change, I hoped that the "people's" Prime Minister might improve matters. But his first list was just as flawed as those of his predecessor.

By my calculation over 55 per cent of those on it received honours which went with the job.

The Queen set a good example at the beginning of her reign by abolishing the presentation at court of young women of no virtue other than sometimes their family background, but more often the depth of their purses, and greedily impoverished dowagers willing to make a bob or two by sponsorship.

Only two categories of person should be honoured: those who have performed some signal service beyond their duty or job and those who have shown outstanding heroism — no one else.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LIDSTONE,
East Lodge, 2 Orchard Fields,
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8SN.
December 29.

Spirit of giving

From Mrs R. Emmett

Sir, I was interested in your article of December 17 on the imaginative Heifer Project for US citizens who want to donate presents rather than money to Third World families (see also letter, December 22).

I recently learned of another way in which North Americans show concern for, and give assistance to, the less fortunate. When a couple marry, if both bride and groom have previously been living independently and enter the marriage with two of everything, it is becoming the trend for them to suggest donations to charities or gifts to the Third World, in lieu of wedding presents.

No doubt this idea will wind its way across the Atlantic to Britain... even here, two toasters are sufficient for two people!

Yours faithfully,
R. EMMETT,
E14 Pine Grange,
Bath Road, Bournemouth BH1 2PL.

Gift or loan?

From Mr Peter J. K. Tither

Sir, I hesitate to contradict the author of *Debreit's New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners*, quoted by Grace Bradberry in "The end of the affair" (December 18). However, the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 provides that gifts between engaged couples, including the ring, are only presumed (my italics) to be absolute gifts.

Evidence rebutting that presumption may show gifts to be conditional, for example upon marriage, in which case they may be recovered by law, under the Married Women's Property Act and otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. K. TITHER,
The Old Bakery,
Cydwell, Carmarthenshire SA7 4UU.

Dome spectacular

From Mr Derek W. Moss

Sir, The proposal to scrap the 12,000-seat auditorium in the Millennium Dome for a piazza visible from "all corners" of the dome (News in brief, December 24) will create an intriguing engineering conundrum. A dome with corners will be a unique millennium experience in itself!

Yours faithfully,
D. W. MOSS,
Bochwood, Box Lane,
Bovingdon, Hertfordshire MK3 0DS.
December 29.

From Mr Robin Dyke

Sir, Surely the new M logo for the year 2000 (report and photograph, December 29) should have been MM. Or would that double the £25,000 fee?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DYKE,
Gore House, Warborough OX10 7DB.
robin_dyke@compuserve.com
December 29.

Stitches in time

From Mr David Shamash

Sir, Something useful to do on Wednesday evening while waiting for mid-night: write 98 into the date space on the next dozen cheques in your own chequebook.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHAMASH,
34 Floral Street, WC2E 9DJ.
December 30.

Plastic padding

From Mr Philip Smith

Sir, I now have 35 bank, cash, debit, credit, store, loyalty, airmiles, security and identity cards in my wallet. Where will it all end?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SMITH,
15 Pyots Hill, Old Basing RG24 8AR.
December 30.

uests put uniform

SOCIAL
NEWS

The Princess Royal, Honorary Fellow, The Royal Society of Medicine, will give a lecture and attend a reception, at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1 on January 7.

Birthdays today

Mr Douglas Anthony, CH, former Australian Deputy Prime Minister, 68; Mr Glenville Benn, publisher, 92; Sir George Blunden, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 75; Mr Michael Bonalack, golfer, 63; Sir George Christie, chairman, Glyndebourne Productions, 63; Mr Stephen Cleobury, organist, 49; Air Marshal Sir Patrick Dunn, 85; Mr Roy Greenleaf, former Editor, *Daily Mirror*, 81; Sir Anthony Hopkins, actor, 60; Miss Tess Jaray, artist, 60; Mr Ben Kingsley, actor, 54; Mr Sandy Marshall, former chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 73; Dr Valerie Pearl, former President, New Hall, Cambridge, 71; Mr Jean-Pierre Rives, former rugby player, 45; Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman, Williams Holdings, 51; Sir John Sainsbury, former Clerk of the Parliament, 63; Mr David Salmon, MP, 43; Sir David Walker, former chairman, Securities and Investments Board, 58.

University
news

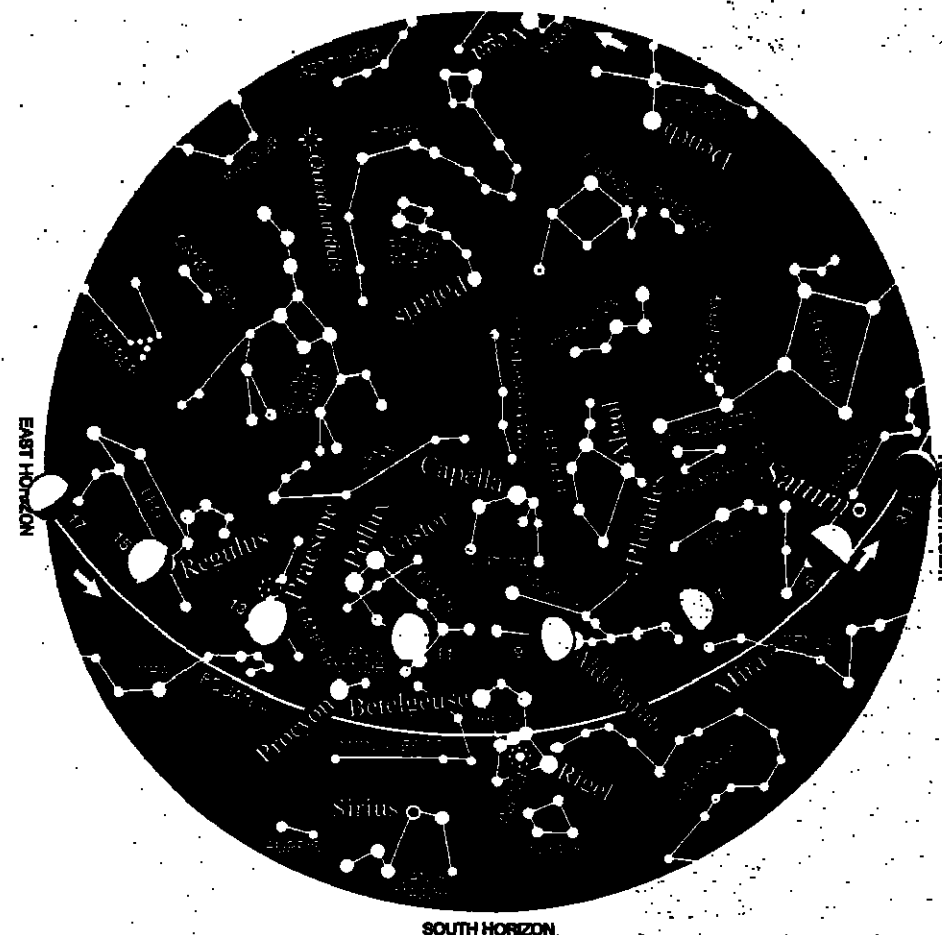
The university has awarded honorary degrees to the following: Mr Peter Kellner, political commentator for *The Observer* and the *Evening Standard* - Doctor of Letters; Mr Keith Gardner, former Principal of Oundle School, Hertfordshire - Master of Science; Mr David Pannick, QC, Recorder and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford - Doctor of Laws; Professor Sir Harry Kroto, FRSE, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1996 - Doctor of Science; Mr Alec Mohr, chairman of Oscar Faber, consulting engineers - Doctor of Science; Mr John Paddy, visiting research fellow of the university, formerly of British Aerospace - Master of Science; Baroness Young of Old Scone, Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - Doctor of Science; Mr Stan Tracey, jazz pianist and composer - Doctor of Letters; Sir Norman Lindsay, formerly Director of Hatfield Polytechnic and Principal of Hatfield College of Technology, antecedents of the university - Doctor of Science; Ms Adrienne Finch, radiographer - Doctor of Science; Joan Greenwood, former Midwifery Officer at the Ministry of Health - Doctor of Science; Sir Herbert Laming, former Director of Social Services for Hertfordshire - Doctor of Science; Dr Frank Baker, former Principal of West Herts College of Further Education - Master of Science.

Latest wills

Arnold Hastings Laver, company director, of Balidon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £7,625,070 net.
John Arthur Bernard Keating, of Sedlescombe, East Sussex, left estate valued at £5,466,503 net. He left £10,000 to St Michael's Hospice, Devonport, and £1,000 to the Roman Catholic Church at Bante. Richard Laurence Beckett, of Newport, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £1,591,486 net.
Albert Norman Robinson, of West Wittering, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,283,133 net.
Deborah Clare Sebag-Mondese, of Warborough, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,049,463 net.
Edith Rowena Jocelyn Stewart, of London SW7, left estate valued at £1,069,284 net.
John Samuel Tee, chartered surveyor, of London SE1, left estate valued at £1,120,099 net.
Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Hoult Trever, of Farnborough, London W1, left estate valued at £1,320,257 net.
Desmond Charles Waldron, of Lushington, Devon, left estate valued at £1,008,016 net.
He left £1,000 each to Macmillan Fund for Nurses, London, and Dogs Home and the South West Children's Hospice.
The Rev Basil John Wood, of Lingfield, Surrey, left estate valued at £572,856 net.
Nora Beckett, of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £538,175 net.
Reginald Henry Berry, of Christchurch, Dorset, left estate valued at £584,530 net.
James Coward, of Kirby in Furness, Cumbria, left estate valued at £537,489 net.
Gertrude Margaret Deosor, of Dunnington, York, left estate valued at £584,562 net.
Benjamin Frederick Douglas Haywood, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £508,227 net.
Geoffrey William Palmer, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £457,233 net.
Rennie Radford, of South Sheffield, left estate valued at £388,598 net.
Freda Eliza Newland, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, left estate valued at £619,637 net.
She left £4,000 to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and £1,000 to St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham.
Walter Plunkard, of Leicester, left estate valued at £346,521 net.
Verity Sylvia Pease, of Hanley Castle, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £725,735 net.
She left shares in her residuary estate to the British Wildlife Foundation, Animal, Cat, and Wildlife Fund and RSPCA.
Eric Arthur Summerhill James, of Northampton, left estate valued at £383,674 net.
Mary Frances Theodora Leslie, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £559,085 net.
Christian Gerard Timperley Berridge, of Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £544,704 net.
He left £500 to the Parish Church of Crawley, near Winchester.
Harold Frank Gambella, of Southampton, left estate valued at £573,683 net.
Richard Edward Millard, of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £536,591 net.
Hilda Frances Hepburn, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, left estate valued at £518,241 net.
Winifred Christine Baxter Nimmo, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £508,632 net.
Rene Barbara Violet O'Brien, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £708,412 net.
She left £500 each to the Church of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford, Weston College, and Church of St Francis, London.
Nicholas John Roberts, of Bodmin, Cornwall, left estate valued at £557,304 net.

The night sky in January

NOZOMI HUBON



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich.

from the Sun we see it depends on the Earth's position as well as that of Mercury. Venus's orbit is almost circular so every greatest elongation is about the same, 46-47 degrees. There are several other factors that make different apparitions more or less favourable. Mercury takes 116 days from superior conjunction to superior conjunction, when the Earth, the Sun and Mercury line up in that order. In the time there will be one morning and one evening apparition, or in a whole year between six and seven complete apparitions. In 1998 there will be four morning and three evening apparitions. The opportunity for seeing these from the British Isles with the naked eye can be roughly graded. In the morning (January good), April-May (unobservable), August-September (fair) and December (very good). In the evening, March (very good), June-July (poor), October-November (unobservable). One's latitude, depending on season, affects visibility. An unobstructed view of the horizon, and a clear transparent sky are needed. As there will

be bright twilight by the time Mercury becomes visible, a dark site is not necessary, though it helps not to have bright lights shining in one's eyes. Mercury can be surprisingly bright, as bright as Sirius, but the absorption of the atmosphere near the horizon dims it and any extra haze or cloud can hide it completely. The sky is often very clear after frost, rain, snow or strong winds, and often much less so in settled, calm weather. From the tropics, especially in clear desert and mountain regions, seeing Mercury at most apparitions has never been a problem.

□ The Times Night Sky 1998 booklet contains monthly charts and notes on the year's events and important developments in astronomy and spaceflight. Published by Times Books, ISBN 07230 0993 7. Price £3.99 per bookshop or by post (add £1.00 p.p. from Dept. 94IN, HarperCollins Publishers, Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 2QT, or 24-hour telephone ordering service for credit card customers: 0181 307 4052 quoting Dept. 94IN).

London, 1738: Giovanni Pascoli, poet. San Mauro di Romagna, 1855: Henri Matisse, painter. Le Cateau, France, 1869: George C. Marshall, general, statesman, formulated Marshall Aid, Nobel Peace laureate 1953, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 1880. DEATHS: Giovanni Borelli, mathematician and astronomer, Rome, 1679: Sir Dudley North, financier. London, 1691: John Flamsteed, 1st Astronomer Royal 1675-1719, London, 1719: Gustave Courbet, painter. La Tour de Pelz, Switzerland, 1877: Miguel de Unamuno, philosopher and poet. Salamanca, Spain, 1936: Sir Frank Benson, actor-manager. London, 1939: Sir Malcolm Campbell, land and water

Forthcoming
marriages

Mr M.W. Adams and Miss E.C. Moody. The engagement is announced between Mark William, son of Commander and Mrs William Adams, of Longwick, Buckinghamshire, and Erica Clare, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Moody, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P.D. Andrews and Miss J.C. Rice. The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs David Andrews, of Alvechurch, Worcestershire, and Joanna Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr Nigel Rice, of London, and Mrs Linda Cumming, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr J.C. Bannerman and Miss A.J.P. Kerr. The engagement is announced between James, second son of Mr and Mrs Henry Campbell Bannerman, of Tunbridge Wells, and Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kerr, of Claybrooke Magna, Leicestershire.

Mr P.D. Fitzgerald and Miss C.S. Hanson. The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Fitzgerald, and Camilla, younger daughter of Mr Russell Hanson and Mrs John Prescott.

Mr N.D. Greene and Miss L.T. Vessey. The engagement is announced between Nathaniel, son of Dr George and Mrs Margaret Greene, of Hong Kong, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Vessey, of East College.

Mr E.C.M. Humphrey and Miss S.J. Wolfe-Murray. The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Marcus Humphrey, of Dimet, Aberdeenshire, and Serena, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Wolfe-Murray, of Mrs Jacqueline Wolfe-Murray.

Mr D.P.B. Malle and Miss S.M. Lane Fox. The engagement is announced between Duncan, younger son of Mr Donald Malle and the late Mrs Dorothy Malle, of Norwich, Norfolk, and Serena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Lane Fox, of Causton, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.J. Mann and Miss S.M. Barradough. The engagement is announced between Charlie, elder son of the late Major A.J. Mann and Mrs E.E.F. de Fluiter, of Harrogate, Northumberland, and Susannah, only daughter of Mrs Thomas Barradough, of Sydling St Nicholas, Dorset.

Mr J.C. Higgs and Miss S. Holliswood. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs John Higgs, of Headington, Oxford, and Susan, only daughter of Dr and Mrs John Holliswood, of Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

Mr O.J. Middleton and Miss S.A. Hayes. The engagement is announced between Orrin John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Middleton, of Goodrich, Kent, and Sally Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hayes, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr T.D.D. Phillips and Miss S.P. Nesbitt. The engagement is announced between Dalton, son of Mr and Mrs T.D. Phillips, of Ballinacorney, Glenageary, Co. Wicklow, Ireland, and Penny, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.R. Nesbitt, of 33 Waterford Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Mr R. Roy and Miss L.J. Eastburn. The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Dr and Mrs P.K. Roy, of Upper Layham, Suffolk, and Lucy, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs A.F. Eastburn, of Ashford, Surrey.

Mr R.E. Southall and Miss R.J.E. Jefferys. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr Richard Southall, of Leckhamstead, and the late Mrs Jane Southall, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Jefferys, of Newhouse, Redlynch.

Dr R.D. Vincy and Miss R.J. Bewick. The engagement is announced between Roger David, only son of Mr David Vincy, of Chichester, West Sussex, and Mrs Mary Vincy, of Swaby, Lincolnshire, and Rebecca Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robbie Bewick, of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Mr B.W.J. Wright and Miss C.M. Prichett. The engagement is announced between Benedict, younger son of Mr Mark Wright, of Powys, and Mrs Caroline Wright, of Dorchester, Dorset, and Colonel and Mrs Cyril Prichett, of Chichester.

Mr D. Rich and Mrs A. Adherton. The marriage took place quietly, in Chichester, on December 19, 1997, between Donald Rich and Janet Adherton, nee Van Noyen.

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Church news

Appointments. The Rev David Abbott, Team Vicar, Farnborough, was appointed to the vacant post of Rector, St Paul's Church, Farnborough, on January 1, 1998.

The Rev Adam Dickson, Assistant Curate, Pershore, was appointed to the vacant post of Assistant Curate, Pershore, on January 1, 1998.

The Rev Thomas Wright, Rector, Denston, was appointed to the vacant post of Rector, Denston, on January 1, 1998.

The Rev Patrick Coombs, Assistant Curate, Goodridge, was appointed to the vacant post of Assistant Curate, Goodridge, on January 1, 1998.

The Rev Adam Dickson, Assistant Curate, Pershore, was appointed to the vacant post of Assistant Curate, Pershore, on January 1, 1998.

The Rev Thomas Wright, Rector, Denston, was appointed to the vacant post of Rector, Denston, on January 1, 1998.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

May your serving acts appear to your servants, and your glory to their children, for we all do as we can, established in family. Psalm 9: 1-17.

BIRTHS

AUSTIN - On December 21st to Claire and Stuart, a son, Alexander James.

BEHAN - On December 24th to Catherine and David, a son, William Thomas.

BROUGHTON - On December 24th to Anne and Hugh, a son, Stanley Simon.

BURKE - On December 23rd to 1997 to Debbie and Richard, a daughter, Rebecca Louise, a sister to David.

CARNSHILL - On December 23rd to Elizabeth and William, a son, George Frederick.

CHAMBERLAIN - On December 22nd to Julia (nee Follis) and David, a son, Edward.

CHAMBERLAIN - On December 22nd to home, to Anna (nee Carrivill) and James, a daughter, Sandra Georgia.

CHERRY - On December 26th to John and Sally (nee George), a son, George Edward.

CLARE - On December 26th to Karen (nee Lushington) and Andrew, a daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth.

CONSOLE - On December 19th to Kate (nee Taylor) and Benjamin, a son, Benjamin William.

DEAN - On December 24th to the Portland Hospital to Paula and David, a son, David.

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DEATHS

BAX - On December 23rd to Gordon and Joan, a son, Gordon.

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He also felt a growing sense of dissatisfaction with the work which was

In 1938 he married Eleanor Grace Chapman. She survives him, together with two daughters and a son.

Westcott for not taking more action against the men, she said: "I am ungrateful that it has been hushed up. I do not think the church has heard the hatred of women, and that it must exist. It is exactly like anti-

not taking more men, she said: "I has been bushed k the church has l of women, and exactly like anti-

ing feminist theologians had heard

not taking more men, she said: "I has been bushed k the church has l of women, and exactly like anti-

NEWS

New year honours for teachers

A headteacher has been knighted and another has become a dame in a New Year's Honours list that focuses strongly on education. The list also has its usual clutch of awards for celebrities, sporting stars and the arts.

Elton John is one of many who played a part in the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, to be honoured. He is knighted. The officer who organised the coffin party and the hearse driver also receive awards. Pages 1, 8, 9, 23 and 44

Funeral brings town to a standstill

Portadown came to a halt for the funeral of Billy Wright. His Loyalist Volunteer Force terrorist group had "requested" businesses to close as a mark of respect and by midday all shops were shut and the streets deserted. "What choice do we have?" one shopkeeper said. Pages 1, 8, 9, 23 and 44

Some like it hot

This year has been the third warmest for three centuries; only a cold January prevented it taking the title from 1990. Page 1

Waiting game

Demand for people to serve at parties on December 31, 1997 is so far outstripping supply that waiters are commanding £1,000 for the night. Page 1

Demolition job

The architect who designed the British Library has blamed the abuse heaped on his building by the Prince of Wales and Gerald Kaufman for destroying his practice. Page 2

Doing 'bird'

A businessman was held in police cells for three hours accused of harassing a neighbour's pigeons by hanging a plastic owl in his garden and singing *Come Fly With Me*. Page 3

Modern parable

A bishop's son has written a 20th century version of the medieval mystery plays where Jesus is a beggar, St Peter a foul-mouthed mugger and St Matthew a commodities broker. Page 3

Tunnel vision

A couple are exploring a network of tunnels under their Somerset country house after being put on the trail by an old man's memories of being sent down one of them as a servant boy. Page 4

Garden furniture in classic style

Christopher Cattle has designed the ultimate range of self-assembly furniture: reviving techniques used by ancient Greeks and Egyptians he has planted saplings that he expects to grow into tables and chairs. "You don't need screws, nails or glue," he says. "All you need is a seed. Then you sit back for four years for a stool and six years for a chair." Page 6

Memorial garden

A £10 million garden set in 16 acres outside Kensington Palace has emerged as the most likely monument to Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 6

Inspired guess

A retired physicist believes that he has discovered the identity of the man who inspired Shakespeare's sonnets by unravelling the complex dedication in the first printed edition. Page 7

Luxor shunned

Abel el-Naser no longer tries to entice people into his floating pyramid museum near Luxor. "There is no one coming. They are all frightened. Most of us will be ruined," he said. Page 12

Poll challenge

Kenya faced the prospect of renewed unrest as both President Moi's Government and the opposition complained that the general election was rigged. Page 13

Siege killing

Prisoners holding 600 hostages in a maximum security jail in Brazil are reported to have murdered a fellow convict and thrown his body out of a window. Page 14

Tiger economy

Millions of Japanese are praying for wealth and prosperity in the new year — but many fear the national economic fortunes will get worse rather than better in the Year of the Tiger. Page 15



On the mend: a puffin prepares to return to life in the wild after having oil cleaned from its feathers by the RSPCA at Taunton

Fees record: City advisers reaped

£1.3 billion in fees from takeovers this year as a wave of consolidation swept over the power, drinks and financial industries. Page 23

New number: A former president of

Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up accountancy to manage rock bands, brings his business to the stock market. Page 23

Economic forecast: The economy

will need to slow down in the New Year in order to ensure steady growth, the Governor of the Bank of England said. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 Index rose

19.9 points to close at 5132.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.6 to 104.8 after a fall from \$1.6746 to \$1.6566 and from DM2.9883 to DM2.9673. Page 26

Football: The England striker Alan

Shearer has made a remarkable recovery from the ankle injury that threatened his career and is so far ahead of schedule that he might be fit to play for Newcastle United within a month. Page 44

Rugby union: Bath defeated Northampton

26-3 at the Recreation Ground, bringing to an end a run of three victories by the visiting side. Page 44

Athletics: Head-to-head competitions

will be outlawed when the International Amateur Athletic Federation bans races with fewer than three runners. Page 44

Cricket: A maiden Test century by Jacques Kallis enabled South Africa to hold on for a draw against Australia in Melbourne. Page 38

Millennium dance: She is tipped for

an Oscar nomination for *Mrs Brown*, and is back in the latest Bond movie, but Judi Dench's first love is still the stage. Page 32

Cube dude: Not content with being

an Olympic gymnast, Paul Bowler has launched a second career with the Cirque du Soleil. Page 32

Rising star: Jason Brooks' huge

photorealist portraits have won him a prize and a one-man London show. The next stage, he says, is to paint pictures as big as a cinema screen. Page 32

Off stage: There will be widespread confusion, fudge, semantic fiddling, compromise, frustration and expense — Benedict Nightingale predicts a grim year for theatre. Page 33

Making their mark: Most pretentious

film? *The English Patient*. Ugliest bloke? Chris Evans. National trauma? The death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Bad sportsman? Michael Schumacher (no contest). Bill Frost takes a not entirely serious look at the highs and lows of the year. Pages 16, 17

Computers reborn: The switch to

2000-compliant computers means that a lot of hardware appears to be redundant. But a Scottish charity is recycling it for use in the Third World. Pages 28, 29

Lease hope: Will proposed reforms

make it easier for tenants to buy the lease on their properties? Amanda Loose reports. Page 35

On the record: The Land Registry

is hoping to restore the price paid for a property to the details on its register of properties. Page 35

The battle of the unemployed

brings us back to an essential question. Despite increasing wealth and massive redistribution mechanisms, our economy is incapable of eliminating poverty. Perhaps it is time to reconsider our redistribution system. A fine challenge for the Government if it does not want to face the revolt of society's sacrificial victims. — *La Monde*

Preview: Jack Rosenthal continues his saga of the chalk-and-cheese families and their student offspring in *Cold Enough For Snow* (BBC, 9pm) Review: Matthew Bond on a fine evocation of national grief. Pages 42, 43

Mayhem and Moi

Even by the miserable standards that Kenyans have become accustomed to, this week's presidential, parliamentary and local government elections have been a disgrace. Page 19

Steady, Eddie

Mr George and his Monetary Policy Committee have taken the right decisions. The peak in interest rates should by now have been reached. The Bank can afford to sit back and watch its past actions take effect. Page 19

Staff of life

Man still does not live by bread alone. But, in spite of the priggish strictures of the nutritional bible, he will have an ever-increasing choice of his daily bread. Page 19

ALISTAIR HORNE

Where did all the flowers of 1968 go? Some became ageing hippies, or nurtured the politically correct in the universities. Page 18

PETER STOTHARD

If I had asked my father his list of passions this week, it would have been headed by the Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford, whose powers of love and peace-bringing should be celebrated in sky-written letters of gold. Page 18

P. DELVES BROUGHTON

Freud had a point. In his roundabout way, he was saying new year celebrations are the pits. By the time 2000 comes Britain will be in a state of nervous breakdown, like a deeply insecure host grinning wildly and turning up the music. Page 18

Sir John Megaw, former Lord Justice of Appeal; David Schramm, astrophysicist; Ivor Clementson, former Labour MP. Page 21

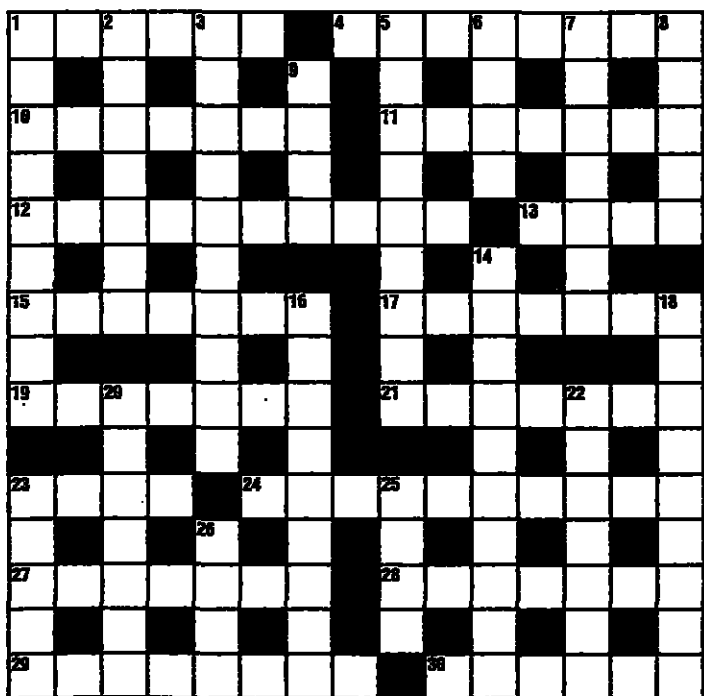
Northern Ireland; Maze prison inquiry; Church's role in hunting debate; honours system; spirit of giving; doorstep ban; eating in France. Page 19

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
"A brazen blockbuster with astonishing effects" — Geoff Brown gets the *Starship Troopers* bug

■ BOOKS
Malcolm Bradbury reviews Don De Lillo's latest; Roger Scruton looks back

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,676



- ACROSS
- Copper getting animated in clergyman's office (6).
 - TV programme with host — walk out for it? (4,4).
 - Conclude a small number must finish up in hell? (7).
 - Occupation of the heartless burglar's female companion (7).
 - Job that depends on satisfying one's better (10).
 - A cast looking pale (4).
 - Minute for Jumbo, for example? (7).
 - Show hesitation entering museum gallery (7).
 - Is she game to be wed to Duke? Not half! (7).
 - Backed workers' organisation on one line, in print (7).
 - Honour the flag (4).
 - Getting on a new rugby team is hard. Without skill (10).
 - Country that's fine away from the coast (7).
- DOWN
- Herb loves embracing king's cruel daughter? (7).
 - A sort of clay-pit that's unusual (8).
 - Pelt leaders of 28 in public uproar (6).
 - Cut by management that's designed to keep a tight grip on paperwork (9).
 - Late for swimming, get back into the water (7).
 - Old romance, novel set in part of India (10).
 - Valentino miscast in unconventional work (9).
 - Top person whose position is determined by rank and file (4).
 - Makes a transmission, based on practical experience (5-2).
 - Sardonically listening to good-living Irishman (5).
 - Effective chess move in support of king (4).
 - Style of Mackintosh imported from France (7).
 - They inform everyone, with a service aimed all over the place (4,5).
 - Put something dropped by 20, a source of contention (9).
 - In East End of London raised, and excessively proud about it? (7).
 - A refusal to follow smart immigrant into US (7).
 - Fruit just as fresh for appetising starters (5).
 - Assumed to give approval (4).
 - Spanish master one of the boys sent up (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,675

DOLLOP CHRESMAN
R O A H E O I
S A N D E L A C A N N O T
T E L L R P A S S E
D O G T A I L T O S S U E
R I T O C R E T I
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Times Two Crossword, page 44

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Weather & Forecast

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aulde, Highland/Glenelg, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Eskdalemuir, 7C (45F); Highest rainfall: Gairloch, 0.1 in; 0.1 in; Highest sunshine: Seaview, Dorset, 4.4h

General: Eastern England will start

mild, cloudy and wet but it will soon become brighter and colder with sun, shine and a few showers. The rest of England and Wales will have a bright and blustery day with sunny spells and showers of rain, hail and sleet — the showers most frequent in the west. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold and windy with sunny intervals and sudden squally showers. Many of the showers will be of hail and sleet with significant snow over the western mountains. In the Irish Republic, wet and windy with heavy rain.

Tonight, many areas will be cold with clear spells and coastal showers. Windy everywhere, particularly in the west, where it will cloud over later with rain.

London, SE, E, NE England, E Angles, E Midlands: Overnight rain will clear to give sunny spells and the odd shower. Cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

West, SE, SW England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, S Wales: Sunny spells and wintry showers. Cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

N Wales, NW, Cent, N England, Lancs District, Isle of Man: Some sunny spells, but feeling cold with blustery showers, wintry over the mountains. Fresh southwesterly wind. Max 7C (45F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Argyll, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Overnight rain in the east clearing to give sunny spells and showers, the showers wintry over the hills. Feeling cold in the fresh southwesterly wind. Max 7C (45F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll: Heavy, wintry showers with snow over the highest ground and a glimpse of the sun. Cold in the strong southwesterly wind. Max 6C (43F).

Republic of Ireland: Wet and windy. Some heavy rain, especially early and late. Strong or gale force southerly winds. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: New Year's Day will be wet and windy with gales in exposed western areas, but it will be mild. Friday will be brighter with sunny spells, showers and a chilly wind.

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Outlook: New Year's Day will be wet and windy with gales in exposed western areas, but it will be mild. Friday will be brighter with sunny spells, showers and a chilly wind.

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Changes to chart below from noon: low H remains close to Iceland, falling slowly. Low R expected to move quickly east towards NW Scotland, deepening. High pressure persists over eastern Mediterranean.



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Heights in metres

TODAY AM HT PM HT TODAY AM HT PM HT

Aberdeen 208 4.3 2.15 4.4 3.40
Abermouth 1153 8.07 18.5 8.28 13.4
Belfast 1153 2.6 2.6 2.6
Cardiff 942 5.9 7.04 5.3
Dunfermline 174 8.7
Dublin 613 5.4 5.35 5.1
Glasgow 124 3.2 1.40 3.6
Hull 1112 5.8 11.28 5.5
Leamington 712 8.5 7.26 8.6
London 651 9.2 7.12 9.2
Newcastle 714 8.6 7.27

London 4.01 pm to 6.05 am
Belfast 1.10 pm to 3.16 am
Edinburgh 3.45 pm to 6.44 am
Manchester 5.05 pm to 8.25 am
Preston 4.30 pm to 6.27 am

Next quarter January 5

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31 1997

Takeovers fuel fees record of £1.3bn for advisers

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CITY advisers reaped a record £1.3 billion in fees from UK takeovers in 1997 as a wave of consolidation swept the power, drinks and financial industries.

British investment banks laid claim to the lion's share of the spoils in a boom year, which saw a total of 1,801 deals with a combined value of £64.1 billion, including 12 transactions with a price tag of £1 billion or higher.

Acquisitions Monthly, the specialist magazine, said that 1997 marked the third consecutive year of strong mergers and acquisitions activity in the UK, with the highest number of public bids since 1989. However, the year fell just short of the 1995 all-time record.

Its analysis of both public and private deals during the year puts Lazard Brothers at the top of the league table of advisers.

Adviser	Value of deals
Lazard (2)	£21.5bn
SBC Warburg Dillon Read (3)	£18.8bn
Schroders (4)	£12.3bn
Goldman Sachs (10)	£8.4bn
NM Rothschild (5)	£8.3bn
Morgan Stanley (11)	£7.5bn
Barings (1)	£6.5bn
Merrill Lynch (9)	£6.2bn
UBS (6)	£5.9bn
BZW (13)	£4.8bn

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly*. The previous year's ranking is shown in brackets.

City advisers: The UK investment bank, 50 per cent owned by Pearson, the leisure and media group, advised on 34 transactions with a total worth of £21.9 billion.

Lazard won this accolade partly because of its involvement in the biggest deal of 1997, the £24 billion merger of drinks giants Guinness and Grand Metropolitan to form Diageo. But the firm also advised US rival Merrill Lynch on its £3.1 billion takeover of Mercury Asset Management, as well as Lafarge on its £1.8 billion bid for Redland.

SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the other key adviser in the Guinness-Grand Metropolitan merger, took second place. The Swiss-owned bank, which announced a £35 billion merger with UBS earlier this month, helped to negotiate £19.8 billion worth of UK takeovers. Adding the business of its new partner UBS, SBC Warburg's tally would rise to nearly £26 billion.

Third place went to Schroders, dispelling the myth that British independent banks are unable to compete against the so-called bulge bracket banks, the big American houses, on billion-dollar deals. Schroders notched up £12.3 billion in transactions, including the takeovers of East Midlands and London Electricity.

However, the US banks continued to tighten their grip on the UK mergers and acquisitions market. The big four—Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan—all moved up the league table by offering advice on deals worth £26.7 billion. This was in part because their US clients made several acquisitions in the UK, most notably in the energy sector.

The league table also seems to lend weight to the controversial decision by Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, to hive off part of its markets business in a two-way deal with Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. NatWest Markets was ranked 16th in its home market.

BZW, sold by Barclays to Credit Suisse First Boston for £100 million in October, fared better by taking tenth position, ahead of JP Morgan, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. It advised on 24 private and public bids with a value of £4.76 billion.

Philip Haseley, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said the £1.3 billion in fees reflected not only the large number of deals but also the complexity of the transactions that had pushed up the costs. He added that the figure was likely to be an underestimate because it included all legal, accounting and public relations fees. "There is every sign that 1998 will be just as buoyant as 1997 in terms of merger and acquisition activity. In December alone, 18 public bids have been announced," he said. The spate of takeovers was part of a worldwide trend. Mr Haseley added. Globally, 13,857 deals worth £829 billion were completed, compared with 12,320 deals valued at £650 billion last year.

The tide of mergers and acquisitions is sure to boost the level of bonuses paid to City bankers in the new year. One firm of recruitment consultants has estimated that bankers may receive as much as £1 billion in bonuses.

Commentary, page 25

Two knights in a day for Pearson

By JON ASHWORTH

PEARSON, the media and entertainment group, has come up trumps in the New Year's Honours List, with Dennis Stevenson, chairman, and Frank Barlow, the former Pearson managing director, appointed knights.

Sir Dennis, 52, is knighted for services to business and the arts. He is chairman of Pearson and GPA, the Irish aircraft leasing company, and chairs the trustees of the Tate Gallery. Sir Frank, 67, is knighted for services to the newspaper industry. Former chief executive of the Financial Times Group, he began his career in Nigeria and the West Indies before running Westminster Press in the UK.

Brian Smith, non-executive chairman of Cable & Wireless

New Year Honours for captains of industry

and BAA, is knighted for services to industry and the community. He steps down as BAA chairman in July. Neville Simms, group chief executive and deputy chairman of Tarmac, is knighted for services to the construction industry. George Bull, joint chairman of Diageo, is knighted for services to the alcoholic drinks industry, while Diageo's external affairs director, Peter Lipscomb, is appointed CBE. John Carter, chief executive of Commercial

Union, is knighted for services to the insurance industry. He is chairman of the Association of British Insurers. Graham Hearn, chairman of Enterprise Oil, is knighted for services to the oil industry. Barrie Stephens, chairman of Siebe, is knighted for services to the engineering industry. In 35 years, he has taken the industrial controls and appliances group from a minnow to an engineering colossus. He retires in February.

Among those appointed CBE are Allan Bridgewater, chief executive of Norwich Union; Mark Baker, chairman of Magnox Electric; John Church, chairman of Church & Co. the shoes group; Kenneth Culey, chief executive of Portman Building Society; Bernard Hart, town clerk and chamberlain at the Corporation of London; Michael Wates, chairman of Wates, the construction group; and Eileen Marshall, of Ogas.

Also appointed CBE are James Dyson, inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner (for services to industrial design); William Banks, deputy chairman of Robert Fleming (medical education); and Tony Pormo, chairman of Bass International Brewers and Bass Leisure (brewing industry). David Bland, director general of the Chartered Insurance Institute, is appointed OBE.



Neville Simms, of Tarmac: services to construction sector



Graham Hearn: Enterprise



Brian Smith: C&A and BAA



Barrie Stephens: Siebe



Dennis Stevenson: Pearson



John Carter: CU



Frank Barlow: ex-Pearson



George Bull: Diageo

Microsoft battle escalates

THE war of words between Microsoft and the US Justice Department escalated as both parties prepare for a courtroom showdown over antitrust charges next month.

The Justice Department, which accuses Microsoft of abusing its market stronghold, alleges the company is "jerry-rigging" its own computer software to circumvent a court order that forces it to unbundle the Windows 95 operating system and its Internet Explorer programme.

In court papers the department says: "Microsoft is in clear violation of both the injunction's letter and spirit." The company said: "Poorly informed lawyers have no vocation for software design."

The Justice Department is seeking a \$1 million fine for every day the company maintains its present stance. Microsoft stamped, page 27

Governor expects economy to slow

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday expressed optimism that the British economy will slow down to a more sustainable pace in the new year.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *Today* programme, the Governor said: "We have been growing at an unsustainably rapid rate over the last 12 months, so the economy will need to slow down during the course of next year. And we believe it will slow down."

However, he admitted that nobody knows how fast or soon the slowdown would occur. He noted that, in its November *Inflation Report*, the Bank had not anticipated recession and, indeed, felt that the greater risk was that growth would remain too strong.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets to discuss

interest rates next week and is not expected to raise base rates as it gathers as much information as possible about the Christmas shopping season and whether there are genuine signs of a weakening in consumer activity.

Mr George hinted that he would like to stay on as Governor for a further two years. He said he hadn't thought about it, but added: "I find it difficult to imagine not being there."

British government bond prices fell more than a full percentage point after a Conference Board index showed that American consumer confidence jumped to a 28-year high in December, raising speculation that US interest rates will have to rise.

Confidence rises, page 24

Sanctuary set for reverse takeover

By CHRIS AYRES



Music man: Andrew Taylor orchestrated Sanctuary deal

A FORMER president of Trinity College, Cambridge, who gave up a career in accountancy to manage rock bands, has completed a deal to bring his business to the stock market.

Andrew Taylor, who founded the Sanctuary Group in 1976 with Rod Smallwood, also a Cambridge graduate, has orchestrated a £15 million reverse takeover of his entertainment conglomerate by Burlington, a shell company. The two men will both own 20 per cent stakes in the merged company, worth about £4.6 million each.

Sanctuary began life as a music management company, most famous for looking after

Iron Maiden, the rock band discovered by Mr Taylor in 1979. It now also owns Cloud 9, the television company, which has created 60 hours of programmes since 1995, including adaptations of Enid Blyton books. Sanctuary's sales for 1996 were £18 million with operating profits of £300,000.

One of its divisions, Sanctuary Music Productions (SMP), is listed separately on the Alternative Investment Market. The division, which is 60 per cent owned by Sanctuary, is worth about £7 million. SMP owns recording studios at Shepherd's Bush, West London, plus a licensing pro-

duction and promotions business. It also owns stakes in several record labels, one of which has signed Huff and Herb, an up-and-coming dance act.

Burlington, whose shares were suspended at 22p when talks began, will buy Sanctuary through a 25p-per-share open offer to existing shareholders, raising £14.6 million.

Mr Taylor will become chief executive while Mr Smallwood becomes the director responsible for music management services. If the venture capitalist, will hold a 10 per cent stake.

Tempus, page 26

New Investment Rates

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 1998.

DIRECT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS CURRENTLY ONLY AVAILABLE TO EXISTING BRISTOL & WEST INVESTORS

60 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT ANNUAL INTEREST			90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT MONTHLY INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	7.50%	6.00%	£100,000+	7.25%	5.80%
£50,000+	7.20%	5.76%	£50,000+	6.97%	5.58%
£25,000+	6.95%	5.56%	£25,000+	6.74%	5.39%
£10,000+	6.90%	5.52%	£10,000+	6.69%	5.35%
£5,000+	6.10%	4.88%	£5,000+	5.94%	4.75%
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT			HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	6.80%	5.44%	£100,000+	4.80%	3.84%
£50,000+	6.75%	5.40%	£50,000+	4.75%	3.80%
£25,000+	6.70%	5.36%	£25,000+	4.70%	3.76%
£10,000+	6.65%	5.32%	£10,000+	4.65%	3.72%
£5,000+	6.00%	4.80%	£5,000+	4.00%	3.20%
TESSA			ASSET TESSA (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
BALANCE	GROSS PA		BALANCE	GROSS PA	
£9,000+	7.45%		£9,000+	7.65%	
£5,000+	7.25%		£5,000+	7.50%	
£3,000+	7.25%		£3,000+	7.50%	

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Merchant princes a class apart



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The Cissandras who have long predicted the demise of the British merchant bank would do well to study the league table of takeovers in 1997. Three of the top five slots go to independent UK-owned houses, giving the lie to the claim that our merchant banks are a spent force.

Few will be surprised by the pre-eminence of Lazard Brothers, which comfortably sits atop the league table. Since a critical decision more than ten years ago to shun equities trading and stick to corporate advice, Lazard has given the US banking houses a good run for their money.

A decade of solid relationship-building and minimum turnover in staff, coupled with a modicum of luck — the bulk of Lazard's clients this year have been the targets of agreed bids — has been sufficient to propel the bank to the top this year.

More surprising is the performance of Schroders, over whom many a foreign suitor is believed to have cast an envious eye. It ranks third behind SBC Warburg Dillon Read, after supervising some 37 transactions with a combined book value of £123 billion. N.M. Rothschild, the third UK bank, takes fifth place, again by concentrating on corporate advice.

The league table would also appear to vindicate the decisions by Barclays and NatWest to hivel off their investment banks to foreign competitors. BZW, sold to Credit Suisse First Boston for a

mere £100 million, squeezes in at number ten, while NatWest Markets, divided among Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for a slightly more respectable price, has to be content with 16th place. Blue-blooded Hambros, now the property of Société Générale, is nowhere to be seen.

And while the American investment banks continue to climb the league table — Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are ranked fourth and sixth consecutively — the German-owned houses Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Dresner Kleinwort Benson are losing ground. If 1998 proves to be as rich in mergers and acquisitions as this year, then it could be crunch time for the two banks.

Meanwhile, the middle ground looks increasingly crowded. Close Brothers may have marked this out as its territory, but the accountancy firms are mounting a strong challenge. Arthur Andersen has stolen into the top 15 for the first time after advising on no fewer than 64 deals, worth close to £3 billion. Targeting more modest-sized companies — Andersen's deals average out at just £46 million apiece — clearly

pays. As more accountancy firms merge, they will take an increasing interest in this market, and a bigger share of the business. The American's may have the global market sown up, but the British can still call the shots at home.

Days of the hostile bid fondly recalled

Long-serving City folk will fondly recall what used to be known as the hostile bid. For the benefit of younger readers, these were lively affairs indeed, where one company — dubbed the predator — launched an unsolicited offer for another, usually a competitor that had fallen on hard times. Besuited executives from one board, normally prim and proper, let their hair down for the best part of two months and hurled abuse and general derision at executives on the rival board.

These then responded by

invoking every known dirty trick in the book to repel the invasion. Advisers, with no expense spared, worked around the clock to produce documents and circulars running into thousands of pages of information to support their case, little of which was actually read by shareholders, whose vote ultimately decided the fate of the company.

And, finally, the bid ended. Mostly, the predator won and defeated executives moved on to their next job with a decent payoff to ease the pain of loss of office. A surprisingly large number of executives and advisers who had behaved in such a wretched fashion to one another subsequently ended up working together soon after the next takeover bid. And so on. It was so much fun.

Sadly, these days have long since gone. Yes, occasionally a board puts up a token resistance on day one of a takeover bid. By day five the terms have been

tweaked, jobs have been made safe and everybody is happy, so the bid is recommended, the fight is over before it properly began. Yesterday's mergers and acquisitions data from *Acquisitions Monthly* lists the top ten deals of 1997. Just one, the smallest, is hostile, the £1 billion offer for Allied Colloids.

Hostile bids attracted criticism, not least from the defeated boards. The charge was that such bids undermined the fabric of a business and encouraged short-termism. Management took its eye off the ball for too long and, in any case, the enlarged business rarely delivered the goods.

This was true but only up to a point. Hostile bids forced executives out of their glass houses to justify their corporate strategy and to put their past achievements into context. Shareholders suddenly had access to new information and were given a chance to influence the future

management of their company. Either that, or they could take the money and run.

Agreed takeovers have a cosiness about them that causes unease. Mergers are presented as done deals and too few questions are asked about the rationale for agreement. Assertions about future market trends go unchallenged. BT's proposed merger with MCI would have dramatically transformed the business, yet shareholders nodded it through without a second's thought.

Opposition to the Guinness/GrandMet merger, the biggest in the UK, was limited to one Frenchman with his own axe to grind. If Diageo ever fails, there will be no one there to say "I told you so".

Crumbs of comfort for Asian economies

The good news for Asia and, it must be said, there has not been much of that around recently, is that the price of oil has bombed out and is unlikely to recover in 1998.

That will dismay anyone working in the North Sea, which produces some of the world's

most expensive crude. But the reality is that Asia accounts for more than a quarter of the world's 76 million barrels per day of demand and is responsible for nearly 50 per cent of global growth in oil consumption over the past five years.

Asian economies are heavy importers of crude. Energy costs have already escalated because of the devaluation of Asian currencies against the US dollar and refinery profits have sunk. A rise in the dollar price of crude at this stage would precipitate the recession that is already almost inevitable across the region.

Refiners in Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore are cutting back crude purchases. Yesterday, India, one of Asia's biggest oil importers, revised down its expectations of oil product purchases by 13 per cent.

What has really spooked the market is a pledge by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest supplier, to raise output by 10 per cent from January. Other Opec members will follow suit although most were already breaking their formal quotas.

But the Saudi uplift in output poses a very real threat to oil analysts' target of an \$18 a barrel average price for 1998. Riyadh was betting that steadily rising global demand for oil would mean a winning combination of higher exports at a continued high price but this now looks unrealistic.



Bill Turcan, left, chief executive of Harrisons & Crosfield, displaying the new name with George Fairweather and Mike Parker yesterday

Harrisons & Crosfield pays £278m for US chemicals firm

By CARL MORTIMER

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the former conglomerate, is building its presence in the specialty chemicals sector with the purchase of Rheox, a US-based company that makes additives used in the paint and coatings industry. Harrisons, which is to be renamed Elementis, also announced a capital repayment to shareholders of £402 million, equal to 56p per share.

Harrisons is paying NL Industries \$465 million (about £278.44 million) for Rheox,

based in New Jersey. The company makes and sells additives that control the viscosity and flow characteristics of products such as industrial coatings. Jonathan Fry, Harrisons's chairman, said that the acquisition would make Elementis a fully credible international specialty chemicals group with a clear focus.

Industrial paints account for 60 per cent of Rheox's market and the company sells to all of the world's top 20 paint manufacturers. In addition, the company has been building up sales to makers of

lubricants and drilling muds as well as adhesives and sealants. Rheox raised its operating profit by 13 per cent, to £39 million, in 1996 on sales of \$134 million.

Bill Turcan, Harrisons's chief executive, said he believed Rheox's high return on sales, some 29 per cent in 1996, could be defended because of the company's high market share and its ability to source raw materials internally.

Harrisons said that the acquisition would enhance earnings per share in 1998 after taking account of tax

benefits and before amortisation of goodwill. It is taking advantage of the tax benefits from amortising goodwill in the US over 15 years, which will reduce Rheox's tax charge to 20 per cent or a saving of \$8 million per annum. However, the effect will be to depress reported earnings in the UK accounts although this would depend on the attitude of UK analysts, Mr Turcan said.

Harrisons is taking a one-off exceptional charge of £20 million, including £14 million in asset write-downs in a restructuring of its existing

chemical operations. Harrisons' remaining food business, BOCM Pauleys and Pauls Malt, are for sale with offers for the businesses so far well below book value. The company is taking a provision of £50 million to reduce the assets to fair value and rationalisation costs of £5 million are expected.

Harrisons is not paying a final dividend because of the capital repayment but expects its dividend will be covered 2.5 times by earnings in future.

Tempos, page 26

Top candidate resurfaces at Millennium

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOHN WILSON, former chief operating officer of Hilton International, is expected to be appointed as chief executive at Millennium & Copthorne Hotels in the new year, more than six months after he was originally due to take up the post.

Mr Wilson has been on gardening leave since June after his departure from Hilton, part of the Ladbroke Group, became bogged down in contractual wranglings.

It is understood that his planned move to Millennium provoked fears that he might take with him his best staff members and a number of hotel development opportunities.

Mr Wilson was to have replaced Ed Gremlich, who oversaw the group's flotation in April 1996.

In the wake of these problems, Millennium named John O'Shea as managing director in July, claiming that he had been the best candidate all along and that Mr Wilson had been just one of a number of people considered for the post. However, it would now appear that Mr O'Shea, who was previously with CDL Hotels International, the Singapore company that owns 35

per cent of Millennium, was merely an interim appointment pending the resolution of the situation.

Mr Wilson is believed to have tied up the details of his move when Kwek Leng Beng, the group's Singaporean chairman, was in London for the December board meeting. Analysts believe an announcement will be made ahead of Millennium's annual results in a couple of months' time, although the company dismissed the story as "pure speculation".

Mr Wilson, whose 25 years at Hilton have earned him a reputation as one of the hard men of the hotel industry, is also thought to have been on the initial list of candidates drawn up by Russell Reynolds, the firm of headhunters, to replace Robert Peel as chief executive of Thistle Hotels.

Interestingly, Mr Kwek also has a small indirect shareholding in Thistle, and there were suggestions last year that he was looking at ways of putting Thistle and Millennium & Copthorne together. He is thought to have decided against any sort of merger.

GKN to buy US company

By MARTIN BARROW

GKN, the UK engineering company, has agreed to acquire Armstrong Rim & Wheel for up to \$54 million (around £32 million), it was announced yesterday.

GKN is to pay an initial consideration of \$52 million for 95 per cent of the company's equity, with the balance to be acquired over the next 12 months.

Armstrong, based in Iowa, makes wheels and hubs for agricultural and off-highway vehicles in America and Canada. In 1996, the last year for which audited accounts are available, pre-tax profits were \$3.7 million. Net assets were \$11 million at the end of this year.

Armstrong will become part of GKN's agtech division, which supplies components and systems to the agricultural, off-highway and construction industries, and will enhance its presence in North America.

The acquisition, which will be funded from GKN's existing cash resources, is conditional upon clearance from US anti-trust authorities.

GKN shares were unchanged at £12.50 yesterday.

HSBC secures bargain stake in Mexican bank

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HSBC has secured a \$126 million (£75 million) discount on a near 20 per cent stake in Grupo Serfin, Mexico's third-largest retail bank.

When the deal was first announced in March, HSBC agreed to pay \$300 million for the 19.9 per cent holding. Yesterday, it secured the purchase for just \$174 million in Brady bonds.

The seller, the Mexican Government, is understood to have lopped more than 40 per cent off the original asking price after it was forced to offer financial assistance to Banca

Serfin, the group's principal subsidiary.

The financial crisis in South-East Asia is believed to have undermined the asset base of many Latin American banks. Fluctuations in the Mexican currency and other economic woes also served to persuade the Government to drop the initial price.

The deal, which has been approved by the regulatory authorities, marks the latest phase of HSBC's expansion into Latin America. The group, owner of Midland Bank, has made a string of

acquisitions in the region since the beginning of the year.

To date, HSBC has bought 10 per cent of Banco Sur in Peru, rescued Banco Bamerindus in Brazil, taken control of Roberts Group in Argentina and increased its stake in Banco Santiago de Chile.

Shares in HSBC, the UK's largest company until turmoil in South-East Asia hit its stock, rallied on news of the Serfin deal, closing the day up 26p at £15.66. At their peak during the summer, HSBC shares were trading at close to £22.

BP buys German plastics company

By CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH PETROLEUM, the oil group, has become Europe's second-largest polystyrene producer after paying more than £120 million for a German plastics company.

The company, which employs nearly 500 people, is a division of Huls, part of the Veba group. It produces plastics used in the production of compact discs, building insulation and packaging.

The deal is the largest made by BP Chemicals, the BP subsidiary, for 15 years and includes the purchase of two sites, one near Dortmund, western Germany, and the

other in Trelleborg, southern Sweden. BP already has similar plants in France and Wales.

Bryan Sanderson, chief executive of BP Chemicals, said: "The BP Chemicals and Huls businesses have complementary technologies and by joining them together we will create a strong portfolio of products for the styrene polymers market."

Erhard Meyer-Galow, chairman of Huls, added: "We have been searching for a strong partner for a long time and with BP we have found the ideal match."

Cadbury's drive to repel Mars attack

By FRASER NELSON



Creme Eggs: £4m campaign

CHOCOLATE wars are set to erupt next year as Cadbury launches a £4 million marketing campaign to defend its Creme Eggs against new lines from Mars, its arch rival.

Cadbury, which sells one of every three chocolates in the UK, plans to mount its stiffest defence of the £230 million Easter egg market after losing substantial share to Mars at Christmas.

The Creme Egg campaign begins tomorrow with the launch of a £2.5 million advertising campaign. A taskforce of 300 Cadbury sales executives will be deployed to 50,000 sweet shops across the UK, offering a flashing light

stall for the Creme Eggs — designed to deflect attention from alternative brands.

The moves came as Mars claimed to have given Cadbury a solid beating in the variety box "twist-wrap" market through its Celebrations range. Mars says sweet shops are reporting that Celebrations claimed 50 per cent of the twist-wrap market over Christmas, forcing Cadbury's Roses into second place in several cities.

Mars expects that its Celebrations will do similar damage to Cadbury's share of the Easter egg market, and said that it is not planning to spend anywhere near £4 million on its Galaxy truffle eggs or Milky Way mini-eggs.

Cadbury's denied that it was on the run

from Mars, and said it did not rate the Celebrations as a competitor for its Creme Eggs. Cadbury said: "Boxes of sweets are the sort of thing you share with your friends when you have a video around — Creme Eggs are a treat for yourself that no one else can share."

"At the end of the day, we're the only ones who do chocolate egg with a yolk. Lots of other people have tried to imitate it and no one's come anywhere near in 75 years, so I think we're quite safe for a few years more yet."

The company expects to produce 300 million Creme Eggs this year to sell in the 14-week run-up to Easter Sunday. The festival falls on April 12 this year, providing an extra 15 shopping days.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

To Your Good Health! Drinker's Guide only £7.99 inc p&p

Dr Thomas Stuttaford is well known as *The Times* medical columnist, with more than a million readers turning to him daily for advice on the latest medical matters. In this book he sets out a balanced view on drinking and health. The key message is that, taken in moderation, alcohol is good for you. Taken to excess it can be disastrous.

Dr Stuttaford proceeds through history to the latest research and draws on many case studies. What emerges is fascinating. Alcohol, he argues, helps to prevent strokes, lessens the likelihood of late-onset diabetes, acts as an anti-oxidant and improves the sperm count. It even has a beneficial effect on the intellect, especially amongst the elderly.



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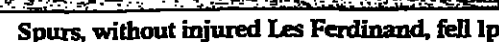
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CHANGING TIMES

Stock Market Writer of the Year

[illegible]

Keep the momentum, not the rhetoric

If a mere state visit by the leaders of France was enough to whet all available symbols of Cool Britannia at Canary Wharf in November (flowers by Paula Fryke, Islington's favourite florist, sofas by Sir Terence Conran), it can scarcely be imagined what kind of whitewash cultural iconography will be on display during Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union beginning tomorrow.

Cynics would argue that putting on a show, taking the opportunity to dole out a bit more of new Labour's rebranding of Britain, is the best way to elide the truth that Britain has no role to play in this six-month slice of the Union's history. This is, after all, the crucial few months when the members of the single currency are chosen and bilateral exchange rates set, and Britain, of course, has ruled out joining the euro during this Parliament.

The UK presidency begins against a backdrop of considerable mutual irritation on the subject of the single currency, centring on the skirmish about whether Britain will be invited to meetings of the Euro-X committee of euro "ins". Britain claims victory, having established the principle that Ecofin, the forum for all EU finance ministers, in or out of the euro, will be the key decision-making body and that Euro-X will discuss matters only of strict relevance to members of the single currency.

That may be the public compromise but the truth is that the 11 countries, which Karel van Miert, EU Competition Commissioner, yesterday forecast would join the euro in the first wave, will discuss what they damned well like in their own committee and a voluntary "out" like Britain can do little more than stamp its feet.

The main decisions on the single currency have already been made in deals done in Paris and Bonn, and Britain would be well advised to forget the single currency during its presidency and force the agenda on other matters of strategic importance. It would be a great shame either if Labour pique over Euro-X or its penchant for high-tech image-making and high-flown rhetoric (Robin Cook's summing up of his aspirations for the presidency was "Giving Europe back to the people") were to divert it from trying, at least, to push through a useful programme of reform of the Union.

There are serious issues which, with careful husbandry and a dash of British diplomatic expertise (still admired in other European capitals despite beef wars and Euro-Xs), could see progress over the next six months.

Enlargement of the EU is one such. So too, at the risk of leaving British farmers even more apoplectic than they are already, is reform of the common agricultural policy, necessary if new members are to be absorbed. These issues were always highlighted by successive Conservative governments in a doomed attempt to distract its European partners from their obsession with the single currency. Now that the euro is virtually certain to happen, on time and with a broad membership, these programmes assume actual and pressing importance.

America looks to 'John Wayne' to halt Microsoft's stampede

Bill Gates had demigod status but became a 'wanted man'.
Oliver August finds out why

Lossing \$4 billion would ruin anyone's end-of-year celebrations. Bill Gates is currently nursing the wounds inflicted on his personal fortune. Stock market gyrations took a heavy toll of America's richest man. But he will remember 1997 as his *annus horribilis* for more than financial reasons.

Until this year, he was the darling of America's fastest-growing industry, the demigod of the computer world, the corporate citizen number one who would ensure America's future global dominance. At the height of his popularity, the launch of Windows 95 software live on CNN was treated like the official announcement of the Eleventh Commandment.

This summer the Microsoft chairman visited Britain and Russia and was received with the ceremonial pomp usually reserved for heads of state. Parish councils everywhere wanted him to open plants in their backyard and universities begged him to toss them a slice of high-tech research. Schoolchildren lifted their fingers from keyboards to wave at the modern-day alchemist. Royalty was wheeled out to convey the respect and esteem the Old World held him in. All but the sacrificial slaughter of a rival computer product on the airport tarmac was included in the ceremonies.

What a change it must have made for Gates. For at home, he has become a bogeyman. The only hands waving at him are clenched in angry fists. Fan mail has been replaced by court orders. His own Microsoft programmes are being turned on him by furious e-mailers who bombard him with electronic jibes and complaints. Seeking refuge, he moved into a secluded 100-room mansion in the remote woods of Washington state shielded by the Rocky Mountains. The Gates compound is already being dubbed Xanadu, after the mad mogul's castle in Orson Welles's film *Citizen Kane*.

The vilification of the Microsoft chairman started in relative harmlessness as a string of jokes forwarded and multiplied on the Internet. He was an obvious target as the key personality in the industry. One joke that reached *The Times* e-mail envisions Gates, Bill Clinton and Al Gore perishing in an aeroplane crash. Arriving in heaven, they are asked by God what they believe in. Gore says he believes that the combustion engine is evil and the environment needs saving. God nods in approval and invites him to be seated on his left. Clinton

says he believes in the good in man and the power of democracy. God invites him to sit on his right and then turns to Gates. "And what do you believe?" Gates replies: "I believe you are in my chair."

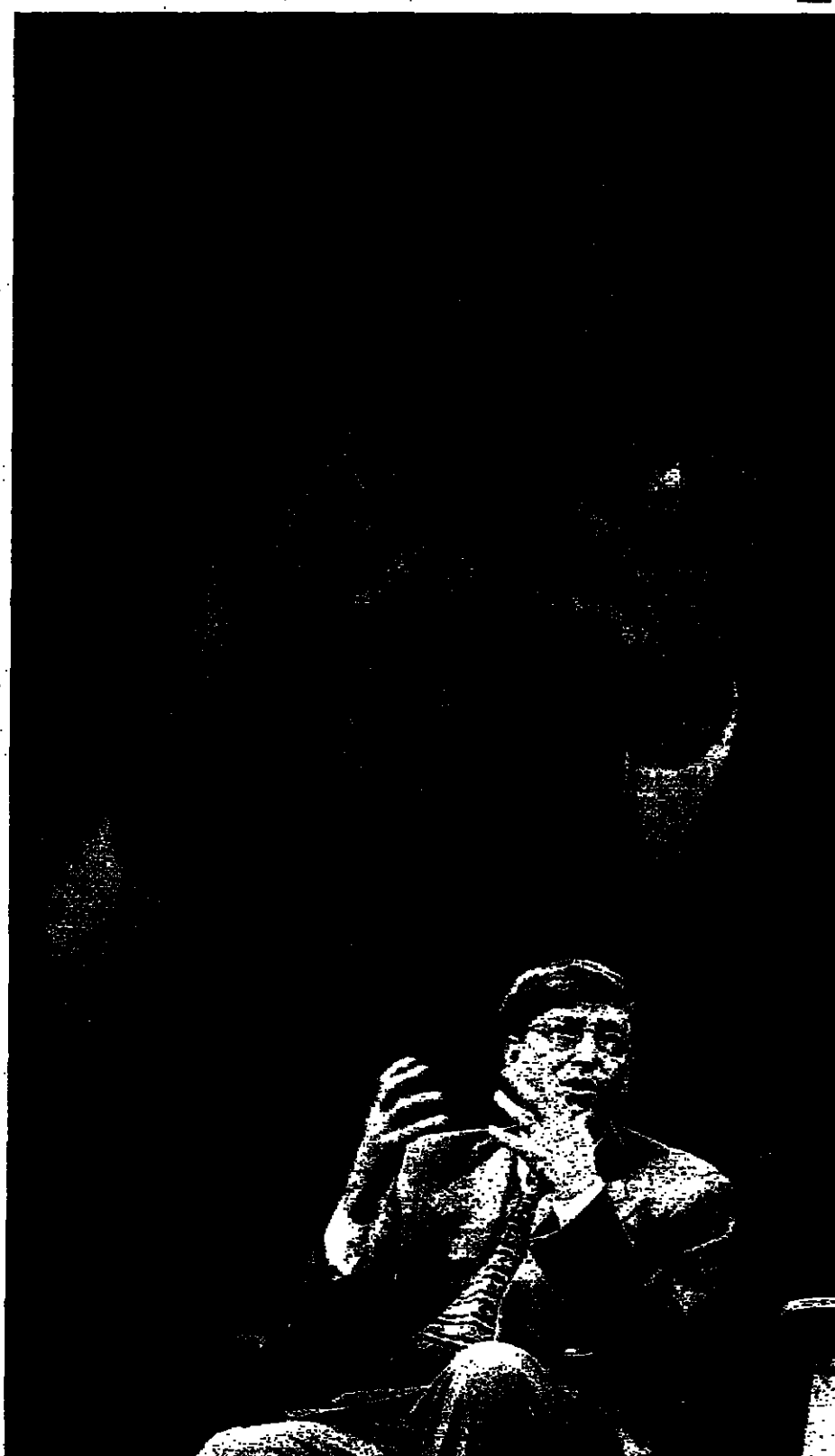
The Gates jokes are now swamping Internet sites once devoted to serious and informed debate about problems with Microsoft programmes. Gallows humour remains as the last line of defence. Old jokes are recycled with new punchlines. "How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a lightbulb? None. They just declare that darkness will be the new universal standard."

The charge behind the jokes is a serious one. Americans and their Government have become alarmed over the past 12 months about Microsoft's market dominance. Surveys regularly find that Gates is believed to be more powerful than Clinton. The paranoia that Gates "wants to take over the world" is based on the fact that he has not only a monopoly but a stranglehold on personal computers.

One is more likely to find a Microsoft product in any given American home or office than a product made by Coca-Cola, Disney or Kodak. Gabriel Goldberg, of the Capital PC Users Group, said: "I am not a Microsoft basher. I run Windows 95. But I really like competition. Suppose you could only buy food from McDonald's?"

In November Gates was treated to a virtual crucifixion at a Microsoft-bashing conference organised by Ralph Nader, the consumer champion. Now Bob Dole, last year's Republican presidential candidate, has jumped on the bandwagon. Once again he is asking for money to fund an anti-Microsoft campaign.

He wrote in a letter to other computer companies: "In the coming months, we will need to educate the public, the Administration and Congress about a laissez faire attitude toward Microsoft. I am personally convinced that if nothing is done now, it will be increasingly difficult to have fair competition in the years ahead. That is why we need companies like yours to help to finance and support our efforts."



Concern has grown about the dominance of the Microsoft empire run by Bill Gates

dom to communicate. There is also the complaint that Microsoft products don't work. It has a monopoly so it gets away with murder. Microsoft servers crash all the time. Instead of fixing its existing products, it continually churns out new ones with new problems. The only reason the company gets away with it is that there is no competition. That's why people hate them so much."

The vilification of Microsoft and Gates reached a new climax with the current antitrust suit waged by the Justice Department. Joel Klein, the government lawyer in charge,

won a rare victory earlier this month, when a judge compelled the company to divorce its Windows 95 operating system from its Internet software. The Justice Department is alleging that Microsoft is forcing computer manufacturers to use its Internet software if they want to load up the operating system. The reason for this, according to Mr Klein, is that the company wants to win the same monopoly position on the Internet that it has in the operating system market. Once achieved, Gates could control access to the Internet.

Mr Klein is seeking a \$1 million (£600,000) a day fine until Microsoft complies with the ruling. The move is reminiscent of UN sanctions against rogue nations such as Iraq. Gates makes an unlikely ersatz Saddam, but he is on the way to topping a business version of "America's most wanted man" list.

Not since the days of J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller has a businessman who is not a fraudster *à la* Bosky and Milken — faced so much animosity in America. Like Morgan and Rockefeller, Gates accumulated his fortune by dominating the fastest-growing sector of the economy — steel and railways a hun-

clear. Yes, those tricky "buy" and "hold" bits.

Pass it on

I AM sorry to have to break the news to those people who have participated in good faith, but there is another of those chain letters going around the City purporting to benefit Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I have just received my second approach. Recipients are asked to help to raise more than £1.5 million for the hospital, which "has recently had to close four wards to make ends meet". They are asked to contribute just £2 to the hospital but forward copies of the letter to ten further individuals.

These things are started honestly and with the best of motives. The trouble is, the hospital does not approve, and wants them stopped. This is not a form of fundraising it en-



yesterday to one of those analysts' recommendations for 1998. The document has had to be reprinted because of errors, so use this version and discard the previous one, it says. And just which version was wrong? A quick comparison with the old copy makes it

Energy trends to generate fresh concern

Jason Nissé examines scenarios put forward in recent research

Global warming, privatisation, the future of the mining industry, nuclear fuel reprocessing, wind power, solar energy, hydroelectric plants, insulation — the list of issues facing the energy sector is almost endless. But how is the market going to develop in the next century?

Few organisations can predict with any accuracy how the market will pan out in the next millennium. However, researchers at Vattenfall, Sweden's largest energy group, have spotted a series of trends developing in how people buy their fuel and electricity or power their motor vehicles. The group has given *The Times* access to this work which maps out four scenarios for how the market will develop in the next century. According to Eva Ström, of Vattenfall, these scenarios are not mutually exclusive. Different countries may go down different paths, and more than one scenario may

take place within a country. Money rules. The world economy becomes increasingly global, distributing energy becomes easier through greater use of pipelines and powerlines and there is limited regulation by national and international governments. Fossil fuels are initially cheap, encouraging less well-off countries to invest in projects that are not environmentally friendly. Despite pressure from leading economies at forums like the Kyoto summit, there is little economic incentive for poorer countries to deal with their environmental problems. However, the heavy usage of fossil fuels increases their scarcity and so their price, penalising the poorer countries, which end up with large bills both for cleaning up their environments and for the fossil fuels that they have chosen to burn.

Stunstroke: The greenhouse effect is seen as a critical survival problem requiring political co-operation on a global scale. The US and China concede that the European attitude to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions is correct. In addition to strict controls of CO₂ emissions there is heavy investment in developing CO₂-free and sustainable resource alternatives (for example, using fast-growing forests to turn into woodpulp for fuel), not only for generating energy, but also for transport. In particular this provides a boost to hydroelectric power — currently considered too expensive by many electricity companies — and

reduction in big generators like National Power or PowerGen. This could be made possible by technological improvements that allow biomass projects — such as the one being built in North Yorkshire by Yorkshire Water — or small hydroelectric plants generating power for a few thousand homes to be built for a relatively low capital outlay. However, in less developed countries regional solutions may be a reaction to attempts by national governments to cut CO₂ emissions and may end up creating more pollution in the quest for cheap locally generated power.

Splendid isolation: Market forces come more and more to the fore, with national governments largely giving up their regulatory role. Two groupings in society emerge — those who accept the increasing influence of multinational organisations with their reliance on traditional energy forms and those who essentially "drop out" of the process, going back to the land, using old-style arts and crafts and generating any electricity they use on a small scale, using, say, wind or solar power.

Vattenfall takes the view that, in all likelihood, there will be a combination of all four scenarios, but that the balance will lead to more pressure to protect the environment. Its researchers point out that if energy companies do not become aware of their environmental responsibilities, then their customers and regulators will force awareness upon them.

Heavy usage of fossil fuels will increase their scarcity and so their price

Water — or small hydroelectric plants generating power for a few thousand homes to be built for a relatively low capital outlay. However, in less developed countries regional solutions may be a reaction to attempts by national governments to cut CO₂ emissions and may end up creating more pollution in the quest for cheap locally generated power.

Tiger feat

EXPECT to hear more of a once-familiar voice in the New Year. Jonathan Cusance Baker is gradually taking over the top roles at Exeter Investment Group, the money manager he joined as managing director in October. I am not suggesting Cusance Baker is in any way a publicity hound, but he did once pose with a live tiger to help to launch James Capel's Far East Tiger Index Fund a few years back. This event has entered City mythology, and he is now widely believed to have put his head in the tiger's mouth, to the extent that his publicity people have even offered me pictures of this non-existent event. "I'm not that mad," he says.

Cusance Baker has spent the past three years labouring under some improbably long job title at the Bank of Bermuda. He is taking over the chairmanship of EIG's unit trust arm and will eventually run the investment trust side as well, as Ian Henderson, EIG's chief executive and founder, bows out towards retirement.

I ask if leaving Bermuda was a wrench, even if it did reunite him with his family. "I've had three miserable years lying in the sunshine trying to decide if it was the right weather for sailing or for golf. Someone had to do it."

AS WE journalists are no longer allowed to identify guilty parties, I am not allowed to name the investment bank involved, but a correction reached my desk

was Barings and Daiwa. "Therefore I believe that another bout of major fraud cases will emerge before the end of the century, probably in 1999."

His argument is that a big wave of frauds puts other managers on their guard. They spend the first year of the cycle putting in controls to prevent their own businesses falling victim. By years three and four these defences grow lax, and the fraudsters strike. Logi-

cal enough, except that it seems to disregard one or two important facts, that many frauds such as Barings and Sumitomo are more a case of individuals trying to dig themselves out of trouble and merely getting in deeper, or that others, such as Robert Maxwell, go on for some years without being discovered. But I pass it on to you anyway as something else to worry about.

MARTIN WALLER

Scam claim

A MILLENNIAL forecast from one City fraudbuster, which warns of a new wave of frauds coming to light in 1999. It seems frauds, like sunspots, El Niño and hemlines on skirts, arrive in easily predictable cycles, of four years in this case. Simon Bevan, of the Arthur Andersen Fraud Services Unit, claims that BCCI, Maxwell, Wallace Smith Trust and Roger Levitt all emerged in 1991. In 1995 there

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1997: the Interface end-of-term report

It's been a turbulent year for the technology industry. Hype, misinformation and general uncertainty as to pricing and product standards have all added to the mix with companies from every side of the marketplace claiming to be shakers and movers in 1997.

Interface takes a retrospective look at the past 12 months, and offers an end-of-year report on the real winners and losers.

INDUSTRY NAMES

Recommended: Hewlett-Packard continue to compete aggressively and professionally in a variety of technology markets. The well-built and attractively priced equipment range has propelled the company from being an also-ran to the position of a \$43 billion giant second only to IBM in the computer rankings.

Disappointing: Apple seems to excel at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Even the most loyal of their supporters must be wondering where it will all end, as the company prevaricates over the choice of a permanent chief executive and continues to lose top executive talent to its competitors.

Watch out for: RealNetworks, the creators of software for transmitting multimedia over the Internet, has just enjoyed a successful share flotation in the US and all the signs are that this innovative Seattle-based company could be going places. Clever net companies continue to hold the confidence of Wall Street even in these troubled times, and Real has good products, as well as an added edge in the form of Microsoft as a shareholder.

HARDWARE

Recommended: Pentium II architecture. It may not offer a quantum leap in performance terms right now, but the new Intel processor and motherboard architecture promises serious speed and convenience benefits over the next couple of years.

Disappointing: MMX and CE handheld computers. A victim of its own hype, MMX is the damp squib that never really took off. The technology was sold as an important milestone in multimedia computing, but in reality has had far less impact on the PC than 3-D graphics cards. Windows CE computers also failed to set the world alight this year. Heralded as the answer to portable computing dreams, the systems turned out to be battery hogs with mediocre performance and few outstanding features.

Watch out for: The low price of RAM (and more efficient microprocessors) continues to drive the inventive development of smaller, more powerful computer products. Watch for the mini notebook and personal organiser market to boom as products from Japan start to filter out on to the international scene.

SOFTWARE

Recommended: Windows NT has come of age this year. The surprise has been just



Now pay attention, class: what ever would Mr Chips have made of the 1997 generation of super-chip computers?

After a fast-moving year, Nigel Powell reviews the tops and flops in the IT industry from software to mobile phones, plus the technologies destined to make an impact in the coming months

how fast and widespread the adoption of the Microsoft operating environment has been.

Not only is it sweeping the board in large companies around the world, but it is gaining important wins in industry sectors such as broadcast and graphic design which have traditionally been the stronghold of companies such as Apple, SGI and Sun.

Disappointing: The problem with over-hyping a product or technology is that eventually you have to deliver on the promises, and in this respect Java has been a disappointment this year.

Beset by excruciatingly slow performance across the Internet, Core's very public withdrawal from Java development and the exploding of the "write once, run anywhere" myth, Java is now desperately seeking a proper home in the scheme of things.

Watch out for: Multimedia entertainment software. PC games have already

eclipsed the dedicated console systems in terms of graphical quality and entertainment value. Watch for this trend to continue as chips get more powerful and technologies such as DVD start to arrive on the market.

PERIPHERALS

Recommended: Colour inkjet printing. Colour printing at the desktop is now fast, high-quality and at the right price point. Products such as the landmark Lexmark 7200 have pushed the market to new levels of value and this trend is set to continue at a furious pace in the new year as the competition heats up.

Disappointing: 56K modems have been hamstrung by continued wrangles over an official standard, and most purchasers have adopted a wait-and-see stance. This situation should change next year once the new standard is ratified by the International Telecommunications Union.

Watch out for: Removable storage and digital cameras look set to be the hot technologies of 1998. Digital cameras continue to astonish with their improved performance and plummeting prices, and removable hard disk products from companies such as Iomega and SyQuest also promise excellent value for money.

ROAD WARRIORS

Recommended: Mobile phones are becoming cheaper, more powerful and more flexible. Innovative products such as the GC25 PCMCIA/PC Card phone from Ericsson (plug it into the laptop and the computer becomes the phone) should ensure the progress of cellular convenience into 1998 and beyond.

Disappointing: GSM data speeds. The hoped-for benefits of universally fast speeds for wireless data transmissions have failed to materialise. The cellular authorities really need to get their act together now to meet the demand from

business for transactions on the move. **Watch out for:** Telecommunications pricing and choice. The boom in telecommunications can only be a blessing for businesses on a budget. Mobile phones now compete directly with landline services and the continuing price reductions should benefit every business that relies on the telephone as a lifeline.

INTERNET

Recommended: Internet Explorer 4. Not a landmark product by any means, but a very able one. Microsoft has taken advantage of Netscape's focus on the corporate marketplace to deliver a cleverly featured and very usable Web browser. **Disappointing:** E-commerce has simply not caught the public's imagination yet. Few doubt that it will eventually shine, but until then the prime movers will have to overcome people's instinctive mistrust of Internet security.

Watch for: Set-top boxes. 1998 could make

or break the set-top box. Will it be a digital television, Web-enabled beast, or a dedicated standalone Internet unit à la Microsoft's WebTV? Only time, and the canny buying public, will tell.

SMALL/HOME OFFICE **Recommended:** The Internet. Any small company which fails to recognise the potential of the World Wide Web to improve their business service is destined to regret it. It may not be obvious right now, but the Web is a slow but sure revolution in the making.

Disappointing: Technology support. The small business purchaser is still being treated with contempt by most technology vendors when it comes to technical assistance. User documentation (nowadays trendily re-named online help) generally remains pitiful, and pre and post-sales support is patchy at best.

Watch out for: Improved mobile and home office facilities. New digital telephone links, cheaper video-conferencing systems from companies such as Intel and better fax/telephone services should all offer the small business more options for keeping in touch with customers and colleagues.

Beware: that 'secure' phone can be cloned

British researchers say they can now clone digital telephones — used by VIPs including the Royal Family — because they were thought to be unclonable — and that calls made on these phones are widely eavesdropped on by the security services.

A team at Cambridge University's Computer Labs (CUCIL) believe they can now intercept what were thought to be indecipherable codes sent by telephones using the GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) system to clone a user's telephone and make calls at their expense.

GSM telephones became popular after a series of embarrassing disclosures when radio hams eavesdropped on private conversations involving the Prince of Wales, Mrs Camilla Parker-Bowles and the Princess of Wales and sold transcripts to national newspapers.

Because the system is supposed to use high-level encryption between the handset and base station, it was thought that such disclosures would be impossible. Another advantage of the system is that, unlike with analogue mobile phones, it should be impossible to intercept codes the handset uses to identify itself to the network and program them into another telephone, thereby allowing a criminal to make calls at the expense of the innocent user.

But now Ross Anderson of CUCIL says he and a team of researchers have found there are glaring security holes in the GSM system which would let anyone clone a GSM

GSM codes could be intercepted

telephone. His discovery followed a challenge from MobilCom, a subsidiary of German company Telekom, which offered 100,000 DM (£33,800) to any telephone hacker who was able to communicate at the expense of the (national) number 017-328 9966. The related SIM card was said to be safely stored in a lawyer's office. The cash would go to a "social institution" of the hacker's choice.

"This caught our attention," wrote Anderson in the online *Risks Forum* newsletter. "Cambridge University, being a registered charity, surely qualifies as a social institution, and 100,000 DM would buy us a triple-wavelength laser microprobe workstation for chipcard breaking. So we had a look at GSM and found a way to hack it."

"We worked out what equipment we'd need and where we could borrow it, assembled the team, checked that the attack would work, and then started trying to find the right person in Deutsche Telekom to speak to."

"We needed to know the IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identification) and get written confirmation of the challenge; otherwise the attack might have been interpreted as an offence under Britain's Wireless Telegraphy Act."

Anderson eventually received a fax from the German telephone company, saying

the offer had been withdrawn, but he still believes the "hack" is possible. "When a GSM phone is turned on, its identity (the IMSI) is relayed to the authentication centre of the company that issued it, and this centre sends back a set of five 'triples'."

"Each triple consists of a random challenge, a response that the handset must return to authenticate itself, and a key for encrypting subsequent traffic between the mobile and the base station. The station then relays the random challenge to the handset."

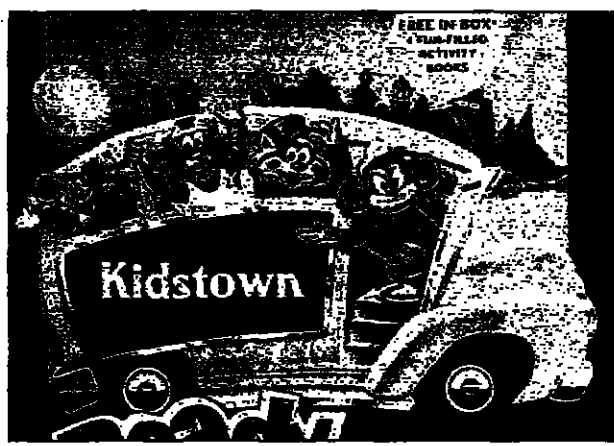
"The SIM card which personalises the handset holds a secret code issued by the authentication centre, and it computes both the response and the content key from the random challenge using this secret code. The vulnerability we planned to exploit is that, though there is provision in the standard for encrypting the traffic between the base station and the authentication centre, in practice operators leave the transmissions in clear."

"The official reason for doing so is simplicity, but Anderson claims it is so that the security services can listen in to what users believe are private calls. Anderson says the necessary equipment would cost £12,500 and could be assembled by a competent radio ham within months. "Essentially, you could charge calls to any GSM phone whose IMSI you know. IMSIs can be harvested by eavesdropping, both 'passive and active,'" he says. "IMSI-catchers are commercially available."

CHRIS WARD



Into the hi-tech age: Fisher-Price's Fun for Kids



Kidstown, the educational toy aimed at toddlers



The Magic Circus comes to town on the home computer

Baby toys in smooth move to multimedia

Do you remember your Action Ramps garage with the lift that you wound up and down to get the tiny cars in and out? Or how about the Farmyard with all those neat little plastic animals?

Now educational toymaker Fisher-Price, creator of the world's best-loved baby activity centre, has developed a new range of activities for preschool children that make the family computer more important than ever.

Fisher-Price has made educational toys for the past 65 years. It is said that one in two children in the UK has played with one of its Baby Activity Centres. Now the company's Ready for Learning series of software takes over where the activity centre left off.

The company has managed to transfer its "feel-good factor" into software without losing any of the charm. The four current titles are aimed at children aged from 18 months to six years old, and feature a range of activities.

Each title has a progressively more advanced content which, starting with *Play Family*, deals with basic counting and shape-sorting sections and moves on through the *Kidstown*, *Toyland*, and *Magic Circus* titles to cover simple arithmetic and even telling the time. The whole series has a strong musical content.

Some of Fisher-Price's success must be owing to its policy of innovation and change to suit the marketplace. It reviews more than 4,500 new product ideas every year, but only ten to 15 make it into the

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Judi Dench's "incandescent" performance in David Hare's *Amy's View*, which transfers to the West End next week, belies the terrible difficulty she had learning her lines

The millennium dame

Talk of an Oscar nomination for *Mrs Brown* has not diminished Judi Dench's love affair with the theatre, she tells Matt Wolf

At this late date it hardly needs pointing out that Judi Dench is a great actress, but it is the specific nature of her greatness that continues to enthral. Whereas Maggie Smith brilliantly peddles a persona and Diana Rigg traffics in a defining English cool, Dench remains the sole theatrical dame to disappear inside roles so varied that she is playing Cleopatra, Gertrude and Lady Bracknell one minute, singing Sondheim and Kander and Ebb the next.

Like the late Peggy Ashcroft, Dench is finding well into her career a screen renown that has eluded her for the better part of 40 years. Just turned 63, Dench is being touted by *The New York Times* as the one performer assured a best actress nomination (for *Mrs Brown*) when the Oscar hopefuls are named in February. And she has already been nominated for a Golden Globe, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's annual awards which are widely regarded as pointers to the Oscars. It is not surprising, though, to learn that Dench isn't sure she can attend the March 23 Academy Awards ceremony if she is indeed nominated. The actress is otherwise engaged until April with her first love, the theatre, giving a performance in *Amy's View* that her director, Richard Eyre, rightly describes as "completely incandescent".

David Hare's play opened last June at the National and is now preparing its West End transfer, with Broadway to follow in spring 1999. Written with Dench in mind, *Amy's View* casts the actress as an actress, so one can safely assume that the gifts ascribed to her character, Esme, are no less true of the player herself. "Layers, I play a lot of layers," Esme explains early on, adding in the final scene that true artistry "comes with the passage of time: you go deeper — right down to the core".

Dench, for her part, prefers not to analyse a talent that she has been refining since 1957, when she attracted attention as Ophelia to John Neville's *Hamlet* at the Old Vic. "After all, it is the profession. It is the basic skill: if you can't get that right, you simply shouldn't be doing the job," she says, paraphrasing a remark of Esme's in the play. Speaking in that distinctive vocal husk matched only by her *Amy's View* co-star Samantha Bond, Dench continues: "It's like a mille-feuille cake that's 1,000 layers down: when you're reading a part, you see a line but you're not necessarily saying that line at all. If you can't understand that, you might as well give up."

Esme is the third actress played by Dench of late, following her Arkadina in *The Seagull* and a

remarkable Desirée Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*, who made of the potentially overfamiliar *Send In the Clowns* a poignant act of self-criticism: for once, one recognised Desirée herself as the greatest dupe. "They're three different girls,"

“An award is lovely but it means the next day you've got to do better”

though," says Dench. "That's why any similarity didn't occur to me because they are different people, and different people react in different ways, whether they are accountants, secretaries, or whatever."

More apparent, at least at first, was the difficulty Dench was having learning a role about which she can afford many months later to be passionate. "I mean, I could do the whole of *Twelfth Night* now, and

Midsummer Night's Dream, and *Measure for Measure*, none of that is hard because Shakespeare has such a rhythm and you just remember it." With *Amy's View*, by contrast, "after three weeks, I asked Richard to release me: I was in a terrible state. I couldn't learn it at all. I used to go straight home, get into the bath, and say to myself I cannot get out until I have learnt four to five pages. I was desperately unsure."

Such perils notwithstanding, Dench remains a creature of the theatre, both solo and in tandem with Michael Williams, her husband of nearly 27 years. (The couple have a daughter, Finty, herself an actress who has a small role in *Mrs Brown*.) "I know some people don't want that thing of ever having to do a play twice or four times or 100 times, but I like it. I think if I chose only to do films, I would get very easily and quickly disheartened."

That may explain why she sounds mostly bemused by her enhanced screen profile at the moment, not just as Queen Victoria in *Mrs Brown* but as James Bond's no-nonsense boss "M" in the two most recent instalments of the enduring cinema franchise. Previously, her film work had consisted mostly of supporting roles in *Henry V*, *84 Charing Cross Road*

and *A Room with a View*, among others, and about two seconds in the Kenneth Branagh *Hamlet*.

"I'm squeamish about seeing myself anyway on screen; I don't like it. A friend saw *Tomorrow Never Dies* and said, 'Do be prepared; your face is bigger than your house'." The Bond film, Dench says, is proof positive of what the theatre offers that all too many films do not. "It's not witty, I mean, it's wonderful for chases and all those things, but somehow you long for real lines."

Has *Mrs Brown* changed things? "Only that lots and lots of people have written to me saying, 'I've never heard of you; will you send me a biography,'" smiles Dench, aware that even an arthouse film originally intended for television will reach more people than a lifetime on stage ever could. In the spring she will play another queen — this time Elizabeth I — in *Shakespeare in Love*, the new film directed by Mrs Brown's John Madden from a Tom Stoppard script. Gwyneth Paltrow is the star. After that it's back to the theatre to star in a revival of Eduardo De Filippo's *Filumena* for Peter Hall.

"If it's a question of film or theatre, theatre will probably always win out," says Dench, who greets talk of Oscars with a healthy scepticism. "An award is lovely but it means the next day you've got to do better: could do better. I think it means."

● *Amy's View* opens on Monday at the Aldwych Theatre (0171-416 6004)

Rome fans its golden flame

OPERA

La fiamma
by Hugo De Ana

NO COMPOSER apart from Palestrina is more closely associated with Rome than Ottorino Respighi, who spent his most productive years in the Italian capital and died there in 1936. His musical evocations of the city in *The Fountains of Rome*, *The Pines of Rome* and *Roman Festivals* are justly celebrated, but they have also eclipsed the rest of his output. Though his nine operas do not deserve a place in the regular repertoire it was appropriate that the Teatro dell'Opera should remember the composer by opening its new season with *La fiamma*.

Premiered in the same theatre in 1934, *La fiamma* was a coda to the great but dying school of Italian operatic composition, not a forward-looking masterpiece. But with all the musical and dramatic care that Rome has now lavished on the work, it makes a satisfying evening in the opera house, something it failed to do when it was the flop of this year's Westford Festival. There it was badly staged and conducted as if it were mock Puccini: in Rome it found a conductor with real feeling for the music and a director able to mould its creaky plot, a mixture of superstition, lust and retribution.

The splendid Teatro dell'Opera Orchestra and Chorus performed excitingly, enabling Gianluigi Gelmetti to conduct with sweep and passion. All the influences — from Monteverdi to Wagner — were absorbed into a compelling whole, and Respighi's striking orchestration shone through.

Hugo De Ana's new production, in his own designs, is visually stunning. The setting, Byzantine Ravenna, is evoked in the golden mosaics that cover what looks like the inside of a huge, upturned arch. The stage is uncluttered, just a few faint symbols of Byzantine art, including a looming cross in the finale as judgment is passed on the anti-heroine, Silvana, accused of adultery and witchcraft.

The opera demands a soprano with great vocal presence as Silvana — the "flame" of the title — and Nelly Miricioiu supplies that in abundance. She spins long sensuous lines, hardening the voice only for expressive effect. The baritone David Fitzmaurice-Jennings is strong as her husband, and Gabriel Sade gives a decent performance as the stepson she loves, though his tenor seems too dark for the role. Mariana Pencheva as Eudisia, the mother-in-law from hell, and Olga Romanko in the small part of Monica, stand out in a large ensemble cast from depth.

JOHN ALLISON

Ska-ed for life

POP

MORE than 30 years ago John Mayall was the pivotal figure in the British blues boom when his legendary band the Bluesbreakers gave a start to the likes of Eric Clapton, Peter Green and Mick Taylor. His son Gaz Mayall was brought up on the musical legacy of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, but his first love soon became another imported black sound, the raw beat of Jamaican ska, the precursor of modern reggae.

Today Gaz Mayall has become a passionate ambassador for British ska. He has led the Trojans for the past ten years, runs his own ska record label, and on his nights off presides at Britain's leading ska club in London's Soho. Earlier this year he produced *Ska Island*, a celebratory compilation featuring bands not only from the Caribbean but from California, Germany and Japan.

In Britain the scene is possessed of an undeniable energy. In a party atmosphere the seven-piece Trojans played a mixture of traditional rhythms, some audacious Gaelic ska, some reggae and some dub, and even a touch of Muddy Waters. Mayall's voice is an ordinary instrument but he makes up for it

with his showmanship. Musically the band was at its best when Mayall played the melodic in conjunction with the Trojans' brass section.

Mayall argues that ska is more versatile than the blues and closer to jazz in its ability to keep renewing itself. His inspiration comes in part from the 1960s Jamaican ska pioneers such as the Skatalites and Prince Buster, but the 2-Tone movement of the early 1980s also looms large, particularly on numbers such as *The Great British Skaiff*, a quirky home-grown tribute to Jamaica's favourite herb which could easily have been a Madness song.

What Mayall represents is ska's third wave, a revival which many of his youngest followers only remember from the record collections of their big brothers and sisters. It is none the worse for that, for ska, like the blues, is now a classic form that will never sound dated.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● The original sculptures from the gates of the old Bedlam hospital described by Richard Cork on these pages yesterday are on show in the Science Museum's *Surprising Regions of the Mind* exhibition (0171-938 8212) until May 4, and not at the Museum of London's exhibition.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JASON BROOKS

Age: 29.

Profession: Painter.

In demand: His big photorealist portraits have just brought him his first one-man show at London's Enniseite gallery, and a prize in this winter's John Moores Liverpool Exhibition. He teaches at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, where he himself studied from 1988 to 1991. In 1994 he was British Telecom artist-in-residence, which entailed painting an enormous work in Waterloo station.

Has he always painted in his present style? "I've arrived at it gradually. In earlier phases my painting has been quite colourful and quite complex. At the moment I am working entirely in black-and-white, and using a single photograph."

Method: "I take head-on, close-up photographs of people I know well. Then I blow them up, square them off, and transfer the image to canvas or paper. I use acrylic applied with an airbrush, and work on the image as it is built up with a variety of weird tools to rub out or scratch the surface."

Are the paintings based on a screen-printed original, like a vintage Warhol? "No. Perversely perhaps, I start at the other end. My images are entirely painted. That is the point of the squaring off. I translate the original image into paint square by square, working down bar by bar from the top."

What is the point of making paintings that look just like photographs? "I want to make something which is at once maximal and minimal. I like my personal input to appear minimal until you look very closely. When you do you see the paradox that the sheer making of the painting has to have been very labour-intensive, and yet, like a photograph, it all seems to have happened in one tiny moment of time. Also, as you move closer to the picture it is abstracted to the point of becoming a painting which is only about painting."

Ambitions: "I would really like to do what I am doing now, but on the scale of a Cinemascope screen. I would love to see what that did to both the reality and the illusion of the thing."

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Ros Drinkwater meets Paul Bowler, the Olympic gymnast who became a star of the spectacular Cirque du Soleil

From five rings to happiness cubed

As a small boy Paul Bowler's idea of entertainment was to film himself head first down a flight of stairs, to the consternation of his granny. While most small boys grow out of such bizarre inclinations, Bowler has achieved the distinction of turning his party piece into a career, not once, but twice, first as a British Olympic gymnast, and now as the Cube Man, star turn of *Alegria*, Cirque du Soleil's latest spectacular production.

For anyone who has been on Mars, Cirque du Soleil is the daddy of New Circus, a Surrealist concept that catapults the genre into the 21st century. Since 1984 it has grown from a handful of French Canadian street performers to a \$30 million industry employing 1,250 people on three continents. Its scouts scour the world for talent, and its Website issues the tempting invitation "Why not run away and join the circus?"

Bowler's act combines the skills of an acrobat and a juggler, his prop a 5ft-square cube of tubular steel, which he manipulates 30 feet in the air to dazzling effect. It appears completely effortless, but 20 years of hard slog have gone into the performance, a combination of stamina, speed and muscular endurance. It lasts a mere eight minutes but, as

Bowler says: "Eight minutes can seem like a very, very long time."

Born in Manchester, he had his first taste of gymnastics at the age of seven. By 16 he was one of Britain's top three gymnasts, going on to represent his country, not least at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. When he failed to qualify for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, he was devastated. "I was completely lost," he says. "I had never looked beyond gymnastics. All I could think was — do I want to train 30 hours a week just to fail? It was time to call it a day."

Teaching gymnastics seemed his best option. "I taught for 12 months, 1,300 kids a week in classes of 30. They were inner-city kids, the kind who have problems in the classroom and do brilliantly in the gym. I could really identify with them. The only regret I have now is leaving them."

Bowler, now 30, would probably have remained a gym teacher if fate had not intervened in the shape of an advertisement in *The Stage* that a friend sent to him: "Tumblers wanted, no experience necessary". Bowler attended an open audition, and his video was sent to Cirque du Soleil's Montreal headquarters. Artistic director Andrew Watson recalls watching it. "He was fast, strong, open,

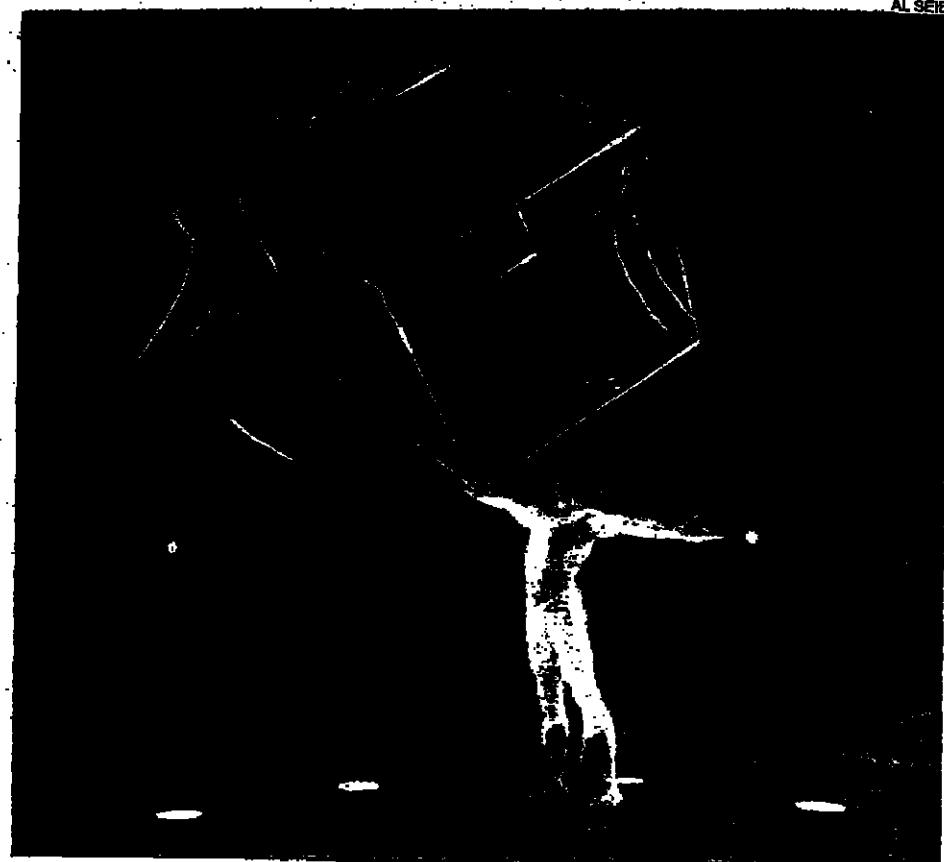
humble and hungry to learn. In other words, we knew we'd found a star."

Bowler was put on the next flight to Las Vegas to meet Micha Matorin, the legendary Russian acrobat who created the act he now performs. "It never entered my head that they would offer me a solo role. I arrived jet-lagged. All I recall is two handles descending from the flies and Micha giving me quiet, firm instructions — muscle up, which means get above the rings, go to handstand. Suddenly, I was 40ft above the stage. I tell you, Mr Macho from Manchester was pretty scared."

"Does the height bother you?" Micha asked. "No, I lied. 'Good,' he said, 'we have no time to worry about that.'"

The same night I watched the show and found it mind-blowing. I then had two months of intensive training, five hours a day. In addition to the technical aspects, I had to tackle the whole idea of expressing myself emotionally, learning to let the movements come from inside. Looking back, I'm glad I didn't know just how much I had to learn."

Last March, three hours before his debut in Amsterdam, Bowler pulled a shoulder muscle so badly he could hardly move. "I couldn't comb my hair, let alone manipulate the cube. I had all these



Paul Bowler and cube: his act lasts what seems to him a "very, very long" eight minutes

wonderful good luck cards from the kids I'd taught, and I couldn't do a thing. That was my lowest point. If I can't exercise, I'm like a caged animal. So after five days I was going crazy. I decided to try to jog and found myself next door to the circus in what had been the old Olympic stadium. Suddenly, I could hear the crowd next door, 2,500 people cheering the cir-

cus finale. The combination of that and being in the very stadium where Olympic heroes had triumphed somehow inspired me, and gave me the will to go through the pain barrier. Within a week I was in the show."

Bowler is refreshingly uncool about his new success. "I've got the perfect job," he says. "Inside I've always been a performer, like always."

craved attention, and now I feel I'm part of a vast, wonderful machine that churns out happiness and perfection. The shoulders determine now how a career I can have as a performer, but I plan to stay with Cirque perhaps in an administrative role. The more I see, the more I learn."

● *Alegria*, by Cirque du Soleil, opens at the Albert Hall, London SW1 (0171-589 8212) on Jan 7

Smoother road to a freehold

Planned reforms will make it easier for tenants to buy the lease on their properties, writes Amanda Loose

The Government is about to publish its proposals for the reform of the leasehold system next spring. Embattled lessees, solicitors, surveyors, agents and leasehold enfranchisement organisations all hope that the reforms will mean the simplification of the rules for the purchase of their freeholds.

The Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1993 gave many more leaseholders in flats the right to buy their freehold, or extend their leases.

Since then, many tenants with shorter leases have bought their freeholds or tried to extend them to make their property more saleable, says Peter Rollings, of Foxtons in South Kensington, an area with many leasehold properties on the Cadogan and Grosvenor Estates. Others buy to gain control of the management of their properties and to avoid high service charges.

But the present system is vague, complex and time-consuming, with cases lasting anything from six to more than 18 months, says Peter Haler, chief executive of The Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE).

"Residents cannot be sure how much they will end up paying because they have to meet the cost of valuing their landlords' lease, as well as their own. And how the process will cost is often the first question many would-be freeholders ask," Mr Haler says.

Many tenants are in danger of being held to ransom by landlords charging inflated prices for the freehold, according to a recent report by Tim Curran, director of Leasehold Enfranchisement Ltd, chartered surveyors specialising in the valuation of freeholds.

Its report, *The Cost of Buying Your Freehold or Extending Your Lease*, shows that some landlords have valued their freeholds at well over double the valuations commissioned by the tenants.

Mr Curran says: "More people now want to acquire their freeholds, and many cases do proceed smoothly. But some landlords are

very good at fighting their own corner, demanding high prices and forcing up the total costs by being as difficult as possible, and these are the cases one hears about."

If the two parties cannot agree a price the case can be heard by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal (LVT). Mr Curran's report, which compares the valuations of landlords' tenants and the LVT in 166 cases, shows that the tribunal's estimates tend to be closer to those of the tenants, and substantially lower than the landlord's.

"Freeholds cost less than people think," Mr Curran says. Leaseholders in London with leases exceeding 80 years pay an average of £1,470 per flat for the freehold, and £1,322 outside the capital.

But tenants find it takes much work to discover if they even qualify for enfranchisement, particularly when large numbers of tenants are involved. Landlords often try to negotiate with tenants, rather than going through the whole LVT process, says David Marcus, of City solicitors Franks Charlesly who act for many tenants, because the system is so convoluted.

Lessees must pass a residence test, hold a long lease (that is, the

original lease must have been for more than 21 years), and two thirds of the tenants must want to enfranchise. No more than 10 per cent of the property may have a commercial use, Mr Haler says. Tenants must then pay for their own valuation of the freehold, and that of their landlord.

"In a standard block of six to 20 flats, each leaseholder will pay about £1,000 in initial professional fees. If a landlord is unhappy with the LVT's decision, he can take the case to the Lands Tribunal, which is a court of first appeal. The tenants are liable for his costs if they lose. This is a big threat," Mr Haler says.

The experts would welcome several reforms and a system that is simpler for the lay person to understand. Mr Haler would like the right of appeal to the Lands Tribunal to be limited, rather than



Early in 1995, Henry Warwick approached his landlord with an informal offer for his freehold — he and the tenants of the converted house are still waiting for a decision

automatic, a move also favoured by Mr Curran, who says that it is unfair that landlords can appeal simply because they do not like the price.

"Landlords should have to gain leave to appeal," Mr Curran says. "It would also be sensible in relatively low-value cases for the LVT procedure to be dealt with by written representations, as in planning appeals, which would save both time and money."

Mr Rollings suggests that the system should be less involved with the law, and use an independent team of valuers, instead of each side submitting a valuation. Landlords obviously want a high estimate and tenants a lower one.

Joan South, of the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, says: "If a landlord drags his feet, the process can take two or even three years."

"It is too much of a drain on tenants, whose financial circumstances can change, or people can move away or marry and so on. I would like to see the tribunal process scrapped, and the introduction of a formulaic approach for valuation, such as ten times the ground rent."

LEASE, 0171-493 3116; Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, 0171-937 0836; The Cost of Buying Your Freehold or Extending Your Lease costs £25 — contact Leasehold Enfranchisement Ltd on 0171-821 8820.

LEASEHOLDERS can be a determined bunch. Unhappy with service charge disputes, Henry Warwick and fellow tenants approached their landlord with an informal offer for the freehold of their four flats in a turn-of-the-century house conversion in Croydon, with 89-year leases, in February 1995. This was refused.

Almost three years and a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal (LVT) decision later, the tenants are waiting for the landlord's appeal to the Lands Tribunal next month. Its decision

will be announced in June. The landlord's original valuation was £15,000 — more than four times that of the tenants. Both sides have adjusted their valuations. The landlord reduced his, while the tenants offered more to gain a settlement after the LVT.

Mr Warwick, 38, a business consultant, says: "Our valuation was within 10 per cent of the LVT's settled total price of £4,030 in March this year. The landlord is going for more than twice this at the appeal. We will be liable for costs if the price is increased by even a nominal

amount at the Lands Tribunal. Both sides will have costs of around £5,000.

"When we started out, the landlord offered us a grossly inflated estimate of what our likely administration costs would be. It has not been easy. The procedure is very complicated and not a casual affair. But the four of us support each other and get on well. It is like a full-time job, but we have already had one positive decision from the LVT, and we are very determined. We have invested too much time in this to give up now."

Registry seeks to restore practice of declaring previous payments

Homeowners could in future find out the price paid for a house the previous time it was sold, Amanda Loose writes. The Land Registry is hoping to restore the price paid for a property to the details on its register of properties. The move, welcomed by estate agents and surveyors, would bring England and Wales into line with Scotland, much of Europe and North America.

The Land Registry has received about 60 submissions from the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), which will be presented to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg.

From its establishment in 1898 until 1976, the Land Registry recorded the price paid or stated for a piece of land whenever it changed hands. This provided a useful guide for valuers and

Land price to go on record

potential buyers trying to gauge a fair price for a property. But in the rising property market of 1975, the Law Society claimed that if a buyer found out how much the seller stood to make on a sale, he would try to renegotiate the price. The Lord Chancellor was convinced and the price paid was no longer shown. A 1993 consultation paper by the registry showed support for reintroducing the listing.

The Land Registry says that including information on price paid would comply with the principles of open government, and make its register as comprehensive as possible. It argues that the

price of land sold at auction is made public, and that including values on its register would assist organisations interested in price movements. Bodies concerned with the proceeds of a particular sale, such as trustees in bankruptcy and liquidators, would benefit.

The proposal is supported by Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy of the National Association of Estate Agents. "It would," he says, "provide a valuable database for professionals and assist with accuracy in valuation and assessment."

Antony Cane at Strutt & Parker also likes the idea. "Valuers would be able to discover the comparable

prices and be sure that they were right," he says.

Richard Honey of the RICS believes that including price paid would mean swifter transactions. But the figure should be as accurate as possible. He says: "When land or property changes hands, the price stated is not always its real value because side-deals are involved, such as for large mansions. There should be a mechanism for dealing with more complicated sales, so that the entry says something like 'price paid and other considerations'."

Opponents of the change say that side-deals could make the entry misleading, and that fraudsters could report artificially high prices to boost resale profits. Some fear that previous prices cause confusion if they are affected by issues such as a property's dilapidated condition, which may be no longer relevant.

Oiling the property market

The Arabs are coming. As Far Eastern investment in British property starts to dwindle thanks to turmoil on their stock exchanges, developers and agents are experiencing renewed interest from expatriates and Arab nationals living in the Middle East.

Expatriates are concerned that they may be left off the property bandwagon, as house prices continue to rise sharply in the UK, especially in London. Forecasts from the Halifax and Savills suggest that there will be a 5 per cent house price inflation next year in the mainstream market. Arabs are keen to buy a home in the West.

This year has seen shows in Dubai and Bahrain, and next year there are shows planned by the firm Worldwide Property and Investment Shows in Kuwait and Qatar.

Unlike those from the Far East, who buy great swathes of London's new

Diana Wildman on the expatriates and Arabs who want to buy UK properties

developments for investment purposes only, the Middle Eastern market consists of those seeking a home for themselves. Jonathan Haward, of County Homesearch, who has visited Dubai and Bahrain three times this year, says: "Over the past three years the volume of business emanating from the Middle East, and in particular from expatriates in Dubai, has increased enormously. People are looking to spend anything from £70,000 to around £1 million."

"It was predictable that as June 30, 1997,

approached, the number of Hong Kong-based expatriates wishing to invest in the UK property market would start to dwindle. This, coupled with economic uncertainty in the Pacific Rim generally, has done little to bolster Far Eastern funds in the UK property market."

Stephen Moseley is a director of Meritium Quay, a development of marina flats in Poole, Dorset, and he, too, attended the exhibition at Dubai's Chamber of Commerce earlier this month.

There is little doubt that these developers and agents have to work harder to woo the Middle Eastern buyer than they did in Hong Kong. Virtually all inquiries are for individual units, not mass purchases. Many people require information on mortgages, rental yields and financial and legal services as well as furnishing packages. It may take two or three visits plus numerous phone calls and faxes before a sale is concluded.

A shelter from the heat of the Gulf

EXPATRIATES Matthew and Anna Hollis moved to Abu Dhabi five years ago with their baby son. They have since had two daughters. Last February they bought a slice of a converted farm building in Alresford, Hampshire. They paid £180,000 for the four-bedroom property with a paddock.

Mrs Hollis says: "This house will suit us for the next five years we plan to stay in

Abu Dhabi. It is close to my parents and sister, who will keep an eye on it, and it is secure as we have close neighbours. The intense heat in the Gulf means I bring the children back to England for three months in the summer and it is much easier with a big family to have our own base. We will sell it when we move back, hopefully obtaining some capital gain, and buy a more substantial home."



The Hollis family: bought a property with paddock

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TENNIS: NEW GENERATION LOOKS TO THE STARS

British game set to benefit from rivals

It has only taken 20 years of hard work, but tennis has finally become an overnight success. The sport has hardly made from page news since 1977, when Virginia Wade won Wimbledon, but these days the story of the rise and rise of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman has forced its way into the sunlit spotlight as Glenn Hoddle's road to France and Manchester United's European dream.

The effect has been spectacular. Five years ago, few would have imagined that a British player would have won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award, never mind beaten another into second place, but there was Rusedski, clutching his trophy and sharing a joke with the runner-up, Henman. The award came as a direct result of Rusedski not winning the US Open, who knows what will happen should one of them actually win a grand slam title.

They are fine ambassadors for the sport. Both are young, clean-cut, happy to sign an autograph, and say the right few words at the right time. Those in the business of spreading the word and encouraging youngsters to take up the game could not ask for more. Up to the sharp end, where the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is trying to get more school-children on court playing the game, the response has been impressive.

Alix Ramsay examines the effect of the rise and rise of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski

These days everyone knows who the top two players are and wants to be like them.

The knock-on effect has pushed more people through the turnstiles at tournaments. When Rusedski returned from the US Open, his first match at the Samsung Open in Bournemouth was sold out; even the national championships in Telford — not known as one of the most riveting events on the calendar — has had a healthy upturn in ticket sales over the last couple of years as Henman and Rusedski have battled for the honours.

At such events, their followers split neatly into two distinct groups, with the girls attracted to Henman and the boys admiring Rusedski because of his thundering service and nervous energy. To the young and the enthusiastic, Tim is cute and Greg is cool.

It is ironic that after years of trying to change the public perception of tennis, and move it away from the elitist, middle-class, moneyed image, the LTA now finds itself

with a role model who is exactly that. Henman comes from a well-to-do family of lawyers from Oxfordshire.

Rusedski is a different type of leader, and every time he speaks it is apparent that he is not a Home Counties boy. While his detractors point to his Canadian roots, however, his followers do not care. After all, Chelsea supporters are hard pushed to find a Londoner among the mix of French, Italian and Dutch footballers at Stamford Bridge, so why should a chap with a Canadian accent and a British passport be a problem?

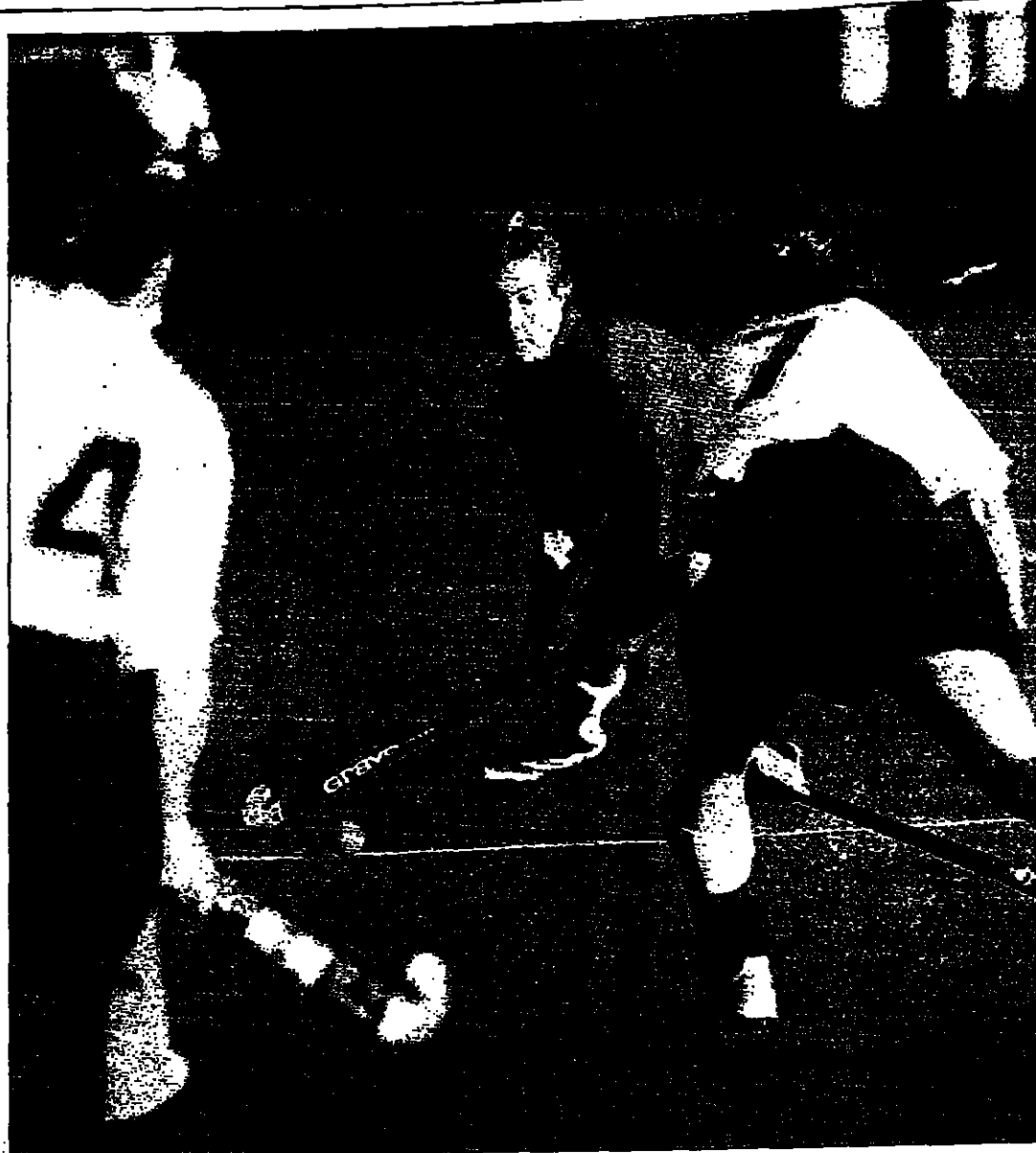
While the professional rivalry between Henman and Rusedski is intense, off-court they seem to rub along well enough. They may not be bosom buddies but they get on as well as any work colleagues, all of which makes Britain's Davis Cup prospects look healthier. In the Ukraine last summer they joined forces to win the vital doubles tie and push Britain to an unlikely victory. Such a keen but friendly rivalry is one that the LTA is keen to reinforce.

But at the Westway Club in Shepherd's Bush, West London, where the young hopefuls are serious about their tennis, the neat image does not wash. Many of the young players, who come from a broad range of social and cultural backgrounds, have met Henman and Rusedski on several occasions and while they warm to Rusedski's friendly manner, they are not prepared to follow either slavishly. They admire Rusedski's serve but realise that Henman is mentally tough; technically, they aim to copy the Rusedski thunderbolt and the Henman ground strokes.

According to Ronnie Maxwell, head coach at the Westway Club, the two men are a source of inspiration to his students. Additionally, he said, "meeting Tim and Greg gives them the added drive to work harder."

"Tim is not quite so good at the PR side as Greg. Greg is more outgoing and the kids like that. But Greg is also higher in the rankings, and the children are clever enough to notice that."

"Despite their different backgrounds, the kids here still recognise Tim and Greg as role models. They respect them and appreciate what they have done but they still see Sampras and Hingis as the elite." In tennis, it seems, you have got to be good to be liked but you have got to win something big to be adored.



Wright shows the menacing form that made her top scorer in the under-21 territorial tournament

Wright's goals help Midlands to power to their sixth title

By CATHY HARRIS

SALLY WRIGHT maintained her sequence of scoring in every match when she converted a penalty stroke in the second minute to help the Midlands to secure a 100 per cent record when they beat the West 2-0 to win the women's under-21 regional tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday.

Their sixth triumph since the competition started in 1985-86, is one fewer than the East, the only other team to have captured the title. Missing Lucilla Wright, Kerry Moore and Rachel Walker, who are all resting, the Midlands' superior strength in depth proved decisive.

Sally Wright's powerful striking at penalty corners helped the England Under-21 defender to collect five goals in the tournament

and finish as the leading marksman. Other territories, complying with the ruling that no player on lottery funding or involved in senior squad training was allowed to play, were also forced to field weakened teams. However, the England coach, Maggie Souyave, does not believe the event was devalued.

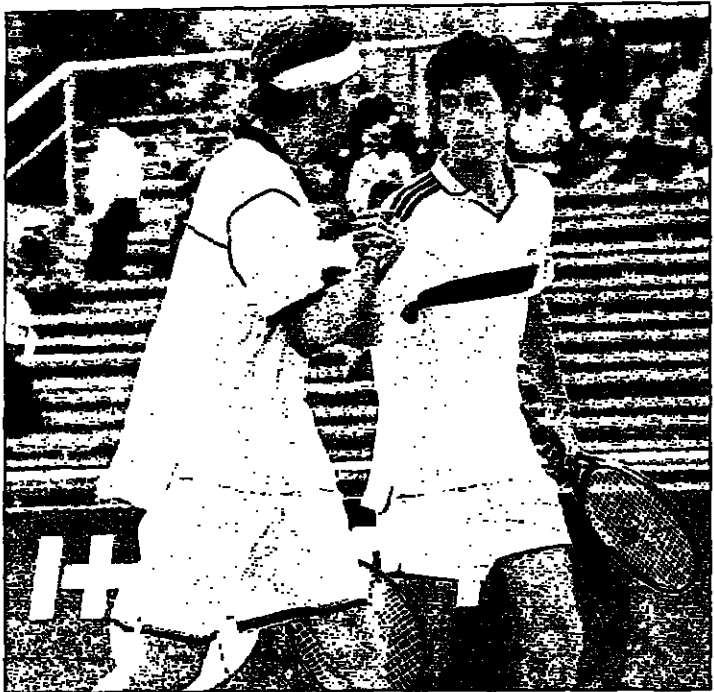
Souyave said: "I wanted to look at as many players as possible at another level and it gives some who would never have had the opportunity to prove themselves. Realistically, there will probably only be a handful but there may be a few on the fringe of international hockey who have staked a claim."

Needing only to draw against

the North, Wright gave her side the perfect launching pad when she was on target from the penalty spot after her own stinging drive from a penalty corner was illegally stopped on the line. Louise Turney, a Birmingham University student and one of four Under-21 internationals in the Midlands squad, added a second 15 minutes later to put her team in charge.

The East clinched second place after Lizzie Aldous and Tanya Barnard scored in a 2-1 win against the North, and Barnard hit the only goal of the match against the South. Despite losing every match, the South can take heart from the fact that their under-16 team are national champions.

FINAL POSITIONS: 1, Midlands 12pts; 2, East 7; 3, North 6; 4, West 4; 5, South 0.



Rusedski and Henman celebrate their Davis Cup triumph in Kiev

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 31 1997

Court of Appeal

Transaction attracts stamp duty

Parinov (Hatfield) Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Millett and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment December 4]

Transactions executed outside the United Kingdom for the sale of commercial property that consisted of a declaration of trust by the vendor in favour of the purchaser and followed by a transfer of the legal estate in the property in the United Kingdom, did not avoid payment of stamp duty.

It was payable on the transfer and was to be assessed by reference to the purchase price recited in the declaration of trust as having been paid to the vendor. The evidence as to the price was not inadmissible merely because it was contained in an instrument that had remained unstamped.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by way of case stated brought by the purchaser, Bishops Square Ltd, formerly Parinov (Hatfield) Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Lindsay in May 23, 1997, (1997) STC 933, upholding a determination by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and assessing the duty chargeable on the transfer at £572,230.

Mr Patrick Soares for the purchaser, Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that in December 1993 the pur-

chaser agreed to purchase the equitable interest in land at Bishops Square, Hatfield, for £572,230.

Completion of the purchase took place on June 30, 1994 by two documents: first a declaration of trust executed by the vendor in favour of the purchaser which recited that the purchase price had been paid to him, and second, the transfer of the property to the purchaser.

The contract for sale and the declaration of trust were executed and retained outside the United Kingdom. The transfer was delivered to the Revenue for adjudication together with photocopies of the declaration of trust and contract of sale. The only relevant fact which could not be ascertained from the records to the transfer was the amount of the consideration payable for the sale. The purchaser claimed that the transfer was stampable at 50p.

Section 1 of the 1981 Act provided for stamp duty to be charged on instruments of "conveyance or transfer on sale". Sections 54 and 59(1) defined such instruments as including contracts for the sale of any equitable interest in any property.

Once the commissioners were satisfied that they had the information necessary to enable them to assess the duty (see sections 8 and 12 of the Act) they had a statutory duty to do so. In so doing they were

not limited to the information set out in the instrument or to evidence which was admissible in a court of law.

The contract for sale, declaration of trust and the transfer were all instruments relating to property situated in the United Kingdom and accordingly could not be given in evidence or be made available for any purpose unless duly stamped: see section 1(4). However, the instruments were not nullities. Although untrue to do so, a person could accept an unstamped instrument if he wished.

The court was in a difficult position. It could not receive an unstamped document in evidence. But that did not preclude the court from resolving disputes of fact without reference to the inadmissible evidence.

The Revenue had assessed the transfer to duty as a "conveyance on sale". It was plainly right to do so. A transfer to a purchaser of the legal estate in property contracted to be sold was a conveyance on sale notwithstanding that the beneficial interest in the property had already passed to the transferee under a preceding contract for sale and the whole of the purchase consideration had been paid before the transfer.

The Revenue was able to ascertain from the records to the transfer all the necessary information except the consideration for the sale. It could ascertain that from the copies of the contract and

the declaration of trust. The fact that it was supplied in the form of copies of unstamped instruments did not prevent it from taking cognisance of it. And on appeal the court was also entitled to look at the documents since they formed part of the case.

The purchaser was misconceived in arguing that section 14 of the Act prevented the Revenue and the court from looking at the copies because they constituted secondary evidence of unstamped documents and that without those documents there was no admissible evidence of the amount of the consideration.

An alternative argument raised by the purchaser was that if the documents could be received they showed that it was the declaration of trust which was the instrument which constituted the conveyance on sale and that as the property could not be conveyed twice over, the transfer was not a conveyance on sale.

The purchaser's primary argument was based on the untenable proposition that the Revenue was bound to disregard information that the purchaser was bound to, and did supply.

Its alternative argument had been knocked on the head almost 40 years ago in *Oughtred v IRC* (1960) AC 200.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Goldmans; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Khan and Another v Miah and Others

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment December 3]

An agreement to set up a business and to carry it on as a partnership was not proof that there was a partnership, any more than statements by the parties to such an agreement that they were partners would on their own establish a partnership. Whether a business was being carried on in common was a question to be determined by looking at all the relevant circumstances.

The Court of Appeal so held (Lord Justice Buxton dissenting) in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the defendants, Lucky Miah, Abdul Ahad, Khasru Miah and Abdul Kashim against the order of Judge Rich, QC, on July 25, 1996, on the trial of a preliminary issue in *Central London County Court*, granting a declaration that a partnership existed between the second plaintiff, Miah, Khan, and the defendants.

The partnership was dissolved on January 25, 1994. The second plaintiff was entitled to a 50 per cent share of the capital and profits thereof, and that the partnership was dissolved on January 25, 1994.

Section 1 of the Partnership Act 1890 provides: "(1) Partnership is the relation which subsists between persons carrying on a business in common with a view to profit."

Mr Edward Davidson, QC and Mr Stephen Hancock for the second and third defendants; the first defendant in person; Mr Nicholas Yell for the second plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that in 1993 the first and second defendants approached the second plaintiff, who had capital available, to open an Indian restaurant in Newbury, the first defendant to be the chef and the first plaintiff, who was not a partner but an employee, to be the second chef.

The third defendant, experienced in the restaurant trade and proprietor of another restaurant, was brought into the project, and he obtained the lease of premises owned by British Gas.

At the end of October the second plaintiff and the third defendant opened a joint bank account, describing themselves as "partners in a business called 'The Nawab'" to be set up on December 1, 1993.

Building works to convert the premises were to be paid from that account. All moneys paid into the account were provided by the second plaintiff, save for a few payments by the first plaintiff, his brother. All payments out were to the building contractors or for

other works or services to establish the restaurant.

Having approached a bank in December to borrow money to buy the freehold of the premises, the bank manager was informed they were partners and that they had spent between them some £51,000 on the project. The bank undertook to lend the second plaintiff and the first and third defendants up to £60,000, the intention being to open the restaurant on December 15.

The freehold was acquired by the third defendant at auction soon after, it being agreed that the second plaintiff and the third defendant would each subscribe half the 20 per cent of the purchase price not covered by the bank loan.

Prior to the restaurant's opening on February 14, 1994, furniture and equipment was purchased, the restaurant was advertised in the local press, and a contract entered into for laundry.

Although the second plaintiff had difficulty in finding his half of the 20 per cent, completion of the sale took place on January 21. Because of the difficulties, including some involving the building works, the plaintiffs and defendants fell out.

The judge had found that the relationship between the second plaintiff and the defendants was terminated by the former's solicitors' letter of January 25. He did not doubt that a business existed between two or more persons by December 1, 1993, and concluded

from the evidence that there was a partnership, although it was difficult to identify the parties' interests and liability in such partnership.

Mr Davidson contended that the business in the present case could not have been carried on until the parties had commenced to trade as restaurants.

He relied, inter alia, on *Lindley on Partnership* (10th edition (1935) p16), *Lindley & Banks on Partnership* (17th edition (1995) p13), *Dickinson v Valtay* (1829) 10 B & C 128, 141 and on tax cases by analogy: *Campani Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1919) 12 TC 31, *Birmingham & District Cattle By-Products Co Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1919) 12 TC 92, *Kirk and Randall Ltd v Dunn* (1924) 8 TC 663 and *Inland Revenue Commissioners v Williamson* (1928) 14 TC 335.

His Lordship said that the court's task was to identify the business that it was intended or had been agreed that the partnership should conduct and then decide whether that business was being carried on by the alleged partners at the material time.

It was the carrying on of that business and not the necessary preparation for it that had to be established. The moment of commencement of the carrying on of the partnership business was probably easier to decide than the moment when the parties started to prepare to run such a business.

The error which the judge made was to conclude from the purposes

for which the second plaintiff subscribed money, from the representations made to the bank manager, and the joint liability of the second plaintiff and the third defendant arising from such matters as the laundry contract and contributions towards equipment expenditure that they were partners, and that therefore a partnership existed.

On the evidence, in his Lordship's view, the point had not been reached by January 25, 1994, when it could be said that the restaurant business was being carried on by the parties at the premises.

At that time there was nothing for the first defendant to manage and there was no role for the second defendant as chef. What had happened prior to that date, and certainly all that happened prior to December 1, 1993, was preparatory to setting up of a restaurant business.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE, agreeing, said that Mr Davidson demonstrated convincingly that the law had always drawn a clear distinction between partnerships which fell within section 1(1) of the 1890 Act, and contemplated partnerships which did not.

The essence of the carrying on of the partnership business was admirably clear.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Saf Awan, Luton; Trevor Jenkin, Reading.

Company inspectors' side letter admissible

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Anderson and Others

Before Mr Justice Cresswell

[Judgment November 20]

Company directors in disqualification proceedings could not obtain an order for inspection under Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of notes, drafts and internal memoranda written by inspectors of a company appointed under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 while they were preparing their report. However, the court would order inspection of a side letter written on the same day as the report in which the inspectors expressed a view that conduct of a director did not merit disqualification.

Mr Justice Cresswell, sitting as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, so held on motions in disqualification proceedings due to start in May 1998 issued by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry against former directors of Astra Holdings plc. The four directors against whom proceedings were being continued were: John Anderson, Christopher Williams, Geraldine, Geraldine, James and James Robertson Cro-

zier Miller. Only Mr James appeared on the present application.

Mr Roger Kaye, QC and Mr Mark Cunningham for the secretary of state; Mr Richard Sheldon, QC and Ms Felicity Toubie for Mr James.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that on August 16, 1990 Mr Colin Rimmer, QC and Mr John White, FCA, were appointed inspectors of Astra Holdings plc under Part XIV of the 1985 Act. Their report was published on June 17, 1993.

The contents of their report, both as to fact and as to the opinion of the inspectors, was admissible in the present proceedings by virtue of section 441 of the 1985 Act.

The secretary of state also sought an order that a side letter from the secretary to the inspectors to the deputy inspector of companies of the same date as the report, in which the inspectors expressed their views on disqualification, should not be produced for inspection pursuant to Order 24, rule 13.

Was it just or equitable that a respondent to an application for a disqualification order under section 8 of the 1985 Act should be expected to conduct his defence in proceedings where the inspectors' report was admissible under section 441, without being told that for reasons set out in a side letter to the report, the inspectors expressed the view that conduct on the part of the respondent director considered in the report was not such as to justify the conclusion that the director was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company?

Disqualification proceedings were brought for the protection of the public. The proceedings had in many respects much more in common with criminal proceedings than with civil litigation. In his Lordship's opinion, the

side letter should be disclosed as necessary to the fair conduct of the proceedings against certain of the respondent directors, including Mr James. Further, the letter was plainly discoverable under Order 24 as relevant.

Production was necessary for disposing fairly of the cause or matter and for savings costs. Certain matters set out in the letter might provide to certain respondents a guide as to how they might conduct their defence and thereby save costs.

Mr James was in receipt of legal aid and other respondents were in person. It would be for the trial judge to decide what use, if any, could be made at trial of the contents of the side letter and nothing in this ruling was intended to tie the hands of the trial judge.

His Lordship confined himself to saying that the disclosure of the letter was necessary to ensure a fair prosecution and that it was discoverable and should be produced for inspection under Order 24, rule 13 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield.

Decision can be reviewed despite appeal provision

Regina v Wiltshire County Council, Ex parte Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment November 24]

Where a local authority had resolved to make but had not yet made an order under section 53(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as to the status of a route, that resolution could be judicially reviewed, although paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the 1981 Act excluded such a remedy when an order had been made.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the application of Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd and Paul Pelham for certiorari to quash Wiltshire County Council's resolution of September 18, 1996 to make an order under section 53(2) of the 1981 Act designating a route in the village of Manningford Bohune as a byway open to all traffic.

The local authority had resolved to make the order but the applicants, who owned a farm at Manningford Bohune, obtained an injunction to stop them from doing so.

Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the 1981 Act provides: "(1) If, any person is aggrieved by an order which has effect and desires to question its validity on the ground that it is not within the powers of section 53 or 54... he may... make an application to the High Court under this paragraph."

"(2) On any such application the High Court may... quash the order."

"(3) Except as provided by this paragraph, the validity of an order shall not be questioned by any legal proceedings whatsoever."

Mr George Laurence, QC and Miss Rose Cullen for the applicants; Mr Richard Gordon, QC, for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that the court did have jurisdiction to entertain the application in the

instant case. Prima facie, a party was entitled to have recourse to the courts.

The existence of a statutory remedy of public inquiry by an inspector and statutory appeal thereafter, was relevant to the question of whether relief should be refused. It did not lead to jurisdiction.

Mr Gordon's argument involved the proposition that, where a council was threatening to commit a plain error of law, as was the position in this case, an aggrieved party could not seek the intervention of the court.

Solicitors: MacFarlane, Michael Holder, Trowbridge.

CRICKET: WARNE'S THREAT BLUNTED AFTER CAPTURE OF TWO EARLY WICKETS

Kallis leads rearguard action

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TAKING heart from a maiden Test century from Jacques Kallis, South Africa held Australia to a draw in Melbourne yesterday, ending the final day at 273 for seven, 108 short of what was always an unlikely victory target.

Kallis, 22, who was playing in only his seventh Test match, occupied the crease for six hours while scoring 101. He rated his century as easily the highlight of a career that was interrupted in October when he was forced to fly home from the tour of Pakistan after undergoing an operation for appendicitis.

"It is a fantastic feeling to score a century for my country, especially to help save a Test match against Australia at the MCG," Kallis, who faced 279 balls and hit six boundaries, said. He added that his experience in the county championship with Middlesex last season had helped improve his technique.

"It was very satisfying for me to prove it is now good enough for me to bat for the equivalent of a whole day in a Test match," Kallis, who was averaging 16.62 at the start of his innings, said.

South Africa, resuming at 79 for one, soon found themselves 88 for three as Warner sent back Bacher for 39, with the aid of yet another brilliant slip catch by Mark Taylor, and bowled Cullinan before he had scored. After such a start, it seemed likely that Warner would bowl his side to victory, with time to spare on a wearing pitch.

Kallis and Hansie Cronje, his captain, had other ideas, however, adding 123 before Cronje was caught at slip off Steve Waugh. It took a superb delivery from Paul Reiffel to account for Kallis, the ball nipping back to clip the off stump.

Although there were some nervous moments for South Africa in the final hour, Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener held firm. Warner, who was responsible for 35 of the 92 overs bowled on the final day, finished with three for 97.

Kallis, who was hit in the ribs by a ball from Glenn McGrath just before tea, was particularly proud of the way that he had played the leg spinner. "He certainly bowled very well and he was un-



Taylor, the Australia captain, snatches a brilliant slip catch to send back Bacher off the bowling of Warner

lucky," Kallis said. "On other days, he might have taken more wickets. The ball was turning and he is one of the best bowlers in the world, but the whole side decided to be positive."

Taylor, the Australia captain, believed that his side had dominated the opening encounter of the three-match series. "We kept our noses in front for the first four days and there was only one team with any hope of winning the match on the final day," he said. He acknowledged that South Africa's confidence would have been lifted by avoiding defeat, a view shared by Cronje.

"This will certainly boost

our morale," Cronje said. "Our attitude from the first ball of the innings was to play naturally, rather than just try to play safe." Paying tribute to Kallis, for whom he forecast a long career at Test level,

Cronje said: "I don't think too much bothers him. He's very much like Ernie Els when he gets going, just very keen on doing a job and doing it well."

Michael Bevan, dropped

from the Australia team for the second time during last summer's tour of England, when he was unable to handle the short-pitched ball, has been recalled to the squad for the second Test, which starts at Sydney on Friday. He replaces Andrew Bichel, who was the twelfth man at Sydney.

Bevan, a middle-order batsman and left-arm wrist spinner, is likely to be included in the final XI at Sydney if the pitch seems likely to help the spinners, as it usually does on this ground. For the same reason, South Africa have put Paul Adams, their unorthodox left-arm, on standby to partner Pat Symcox.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 309 (R T Pitting 105, S R Waugh 86, P L Symcox 4 for 69, Second Innings 257 (P R Reiffel 79 not out, M A Taylor 59, A A Donald 6 for 59)	
SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 186 (G Kirsten 83)	
Second Innings	
G Kirsten b Reiffel	0
A M Bacher c Taylor b Warner	39
J H Kallis b Reiffel	101
D J Cullinan b Warner	0
W J Cronje c Taylor b S R Waugh	70
S M Pollock c Taylor b Warner	16
S M Pollock not out	15
10 J Richardson bow b McGrath	
L Klusener not out	8
Extras (b 5, lb 6, nb 4)	15
Total (7 wickets)	273
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-88, 3-88, 4-211, 5-223, 6-241, 7-280	
BOWLING: McGrath 28-11-57-1; Reiffel 18-8-24-2; Kasprowicz 14-1-45-0; Warner 44-11-97-3; M E Waugh 10-0-25-0; S R Waugh 12-1-12-1; Symcox 1-0-4-0	
Man of the match: J H Kallis	
Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and S G Rendell (Australia)	
TESTS TO COME: Sydney (Jan 2-6); Adelaide (Jan 30-Feb 3)	

Edwards offers hope of brighter future

SARAH POTTER



me, but it has made me feel sad, I wasn't expecting it to be so bad — it's hard to describe just how poor it is in some places we've been to."

The England itinerary meant that the party travelled to more places than they would have liked. "Looking back on it all, I'm not sure how we fitted it in," Edwards said. "We've had three seven-hour coach trips, lots of flights and an all-night train journey. After the early games, we had to travel through the night straight after a match and it's difficult to get any sleep. Only having one day's rest between matches is unbelievably tiring, though we



Edwards homesick

got through it and it became easier towards the end."

The final stages of England's unsuccessful ride defence meant coping with a Christmas away from home. Edwards had only just celebrated her birthday when the most evocative day was upon her. "When I got up, it didn't really feel like Christmas," she said, "but later on Mum and Dad phoned and then my Grandma and aunts and I think it did hit me. I felt a bit homesick."

The Boxing Day match meant that the team celebrated Christmas a day early. The hotel in Madras had decorated a tree and the team exchanged gifts. "The hotel did turkey for our meal. They tried their best and it was quite nice — it just wasn't the same."

By her own admission, Edwards is a fussy eater and thought she might fall prey to "Delhi belly". However, all the England players managed to stay fit. "A lot of the South Africans have been really ill," she said. "We've been careful and all come through OK. For me, the food has been one of the things I've really enjoyed. I hate curries and the truth is I haven't even had to smell one. I've eaten well. The chips and naan bread have been lovely."

Home cooking has suddenly become a mouth-watering prospect. "Mum is going to cook me a proper Christmas dinner when I get back and I can hardly wait," she said. "My parents are getting to the airport at five o'clock, even though the plane isn't due to land until six."

Edwards is reluctant to talk about her successes — the 173 against Ireland or her unexpected haul of wickets — but she will tell you that her biggest disappointment was getting a duck against Australia. Her parents had phoned and told her to "sock it to the Aussies". England could not and now Australia are world champions. "I just want to have another go at beating them," she said. "It is a good thing, then, that it is the old enemy who visit British shores next summer."

Australia set new standard

LAST YEAR, Sri Lanka changed the face of men's one-day international cricket. Australia's achievement in winning the women's World Cup during the past three weeks in India has been just as revolutionary.

Australia were stung by an unexpectedly poor World Cup in England in 1993. As Cathryn Fitzpatrick, the fast bowler, said after the final this week, in which Australia defeated New Zealand by five wickets: "All we've been bearing for the past four years is that England are world champions. We saw New Zealand go there and win 3-0; we knew we were a better team, but we were never given a chance to prove it."

John Harmer, a former university lecturer in biomechanics, has coached Australia with the World Cup in mind for the past 3½ years. In addition to intensive work in fitness and fielding skills, he compiled personal videos for the players.

Everything about Harmer is deliberate and well-ordered and Australia's cricket reflects it. They are a professional outfit in every regard, other than payment.

England were probably the next best-prepared team here. In addition to coaches and a sports scientist, a sports psychologist, for part of the trip, and a physiotherapist, whose duties went far beyond the alleviation of players' injured bodies. There was, in addition, substantial financial

Thrasy Petropoulos says the England women's cricket team can learn much from their World Cup passage to India

backing — so, why did England disappoint?

The answer is not particularly palatable for the Women's Cricket Association and English cricket generally. First, England lacked the killer instinct that was so obviously the bedrock of Australia's success. In Vijayawada, England took only three Pakistan wickets in 47 overs; two days later in Hyderabad, Australia dismissed Pakistan for 27 in less than 14 overs.

Second — and, on the eve-

dence of this World Cup, this is a problem shared by all countries except Australia — a lack of experience at playing high-pressure cricket has been painfully obvious, especially when chasing targets.

This cost England their semi-final against New Zealand; the highest total chased successfully here was 164, by Australia against New Zealand.

Third, England suffered from a lack of athleticism in the field. It has become clear

that sides can no longer carry fielders in one-day cricket.

For all that, England are no a bad side. In Charlotte Edwards, they have a player of true talent and a free spirit — although she was visibly overawed against Australia in Nagpur, after which Fitzpatrick came up with one of the quotes of the tour: "From the moment she'd played the first ball three seconds late, she was out of my mind."

Jane Cassar is, arguably, the most valuable player in the side. Her wicketkeeping is immaculate, but she is wasted batting at No 5. Of the bowlers, Clare Taylor is still the most effective and most reliable, but she is 32 and England will be aware that a replacement must be groomed. Of the current stock, only Melissa Reynard looks to have the necessary heart and consistency.

Much has been made of the organisational chaos of this tournament and certainly England's travel requirements have been ludicrous, but two men's World Cups on the sub-continent have been similarly disorderly and such trials and tribulations go with the territory.

The next women's World Cup, in New Zealand in 2000, will be restricted to eight entrants, mercifully preventing the embarrassing slaughter of cricket innocents, such as Pakistan and Denmark. It should be a more balanced tournament and, with the re-emergence of South Africa, a more competitive one.



Bronwyn Calver, left, and Olivia Magno smile with satisfaction as Australia clinch the women's World Cup

Shah plays captain's innings

A CENTURY by Owais Shah, the England Under-19 captain, helped his side to what was, in the end, a comfortable draw in the second international here, leaving South Africa with no tangible reward for their long periods of dominance in this two-match series.

When the captains agreed to call the game off 30 minutes before the scheduled close, Shah was unbeaten with 104, having hit ten fours and a six from 150 balls, and England, who had been forced to follow on, were 274 for three, 59 ahead. Yesterday, the batsmen showed the application so painfully absent in the first innings against bowlers who were very tired at the end of

FROM JOHN STERN IN FOCVILLE

play after spending 2½ days in the field.

Shah joined Michael Gough 30 minutes before lunch, after the loss of both opening batsmen in the space of 15 balls, and they complemented each other perfectly. Shah covered beautifully, showing a combination of technique and timing that Middlesex members will be able to enjoy for the whole of next summer now that he has left school.

He reached his half-century with a straight drive off a full toss from Rudolph, an impressive 16-year-old leg spinner, and later played the most pleasing shot of the day, an

extra-cover drive with the front leg fully bent, off Samson.

Gough, of Durham, tried nothing as audacious, but moved calmly towards his own half-century as 149 runs were added for the third wicket.

Stephen Peters and Robert Key had laid a good foundation with an opening stand of 97, Peters reaching his half-century with one of his favourite square cuts to the boundary off Mpsang, but was then bowled trying to pull Bida.

Key, having been content to let his partner play most of the shots, then attempted an injudicious sweep against Bida, and was bowled round his legs.

New Zealand summon in-form Nash

DION NASH, the all-rounders, was rewarded for his strong early-season form with a recall to the New Zealand team for the second half of their limited-overs series in Australia in January.

Nash, who has been out of the New Zealand team since early last year because of a back injury, is one of two changes to the squad from that used in pre-Christmas matches against Australia and South Africa. Craig Spearman also returns.

NEW ZEALAND SQUAD: S P Fleming (captain), N J Astle, C L Cairns, S B Doolan, D J Nash, S B O'Connor, C D McMillan, D J Nash, S B O'Connor, A C Parore, C M Spearman, D L Vettori, B A Young.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Beginners are taught to lead high from a doubleton honour, as declarer as well as in defence, to unblock suits and maintain fluidity. While this may be sound advice on the whole, it need not apply when declarer has ample communications between hands. For example, declarer has A Q J 5 4 facing 10 2 in hand with unlimited entries. Players find it hard to resist leading the ten, the "natural" card; yet it can never gain a trick in the suit and stands to lose a trick if there is singleton king outside. A similar combination cropped up in the England junior trials this year:

Dealer South	East-West game	IMP's
♠ K 10 4	♠ 10 4	♠ 0 J 9 8 5
♥ 10 7 6 5	♥ 10 4	♥ 9 8 4
♦ 10 4	♦ A J 7 2	♦ J
♣ 7 6 2	♣ 10 4	♣ 9 6 4 3
♥ Q J 3 2	♥ W	
♠ K 8 5 3	♠ S	
♠ 10 8	♠ A 3	
	♠ V A K	
	♠ A O 9 7 4 2	
	♠ K Q 5	

Contract: Six No-Trumps by South

South opened Two Clubs and rebid Three Diamonds over North's Two Diamond response. A Two No-Trump rebid, advertising a balanced hand of near game-forcing strength, was a better reflection of the character of the hand. Three Diamonds drives to game willy-nilly, and risks an eventual Three No-Trumps being played disadvantageously from the weak hand.

North bid Three Hearts over Three Diamonds, showing a suit as poor as 10 7 6 5 opposite a single-suited Two Club's opener is unhelpful to say the least. Four Diamonds would have been much more constructive.

Then South rebid Three No-Trumps, North raised to Four No-Trumps, quantitative, invitational to Six No-Trumps, not Blackwood, and South, with no real justification, went on to Six No-Trumps.

The contract depends on

playing diamonds for one loser. Declarer won the spade lead in clubs and made the natural-looking play of leading the ten of diamonds, which resulted in two losers in the suit.

To take two diamond finesses is the right idea, but better play is to start by finessing the nine if East follows small; that gains over leading the ten when East holds the singleton jack or king.

You might think that leading the ten would gain against singleton king with West, but East covers from J 8 5 3, declarer puts in the queen, catering for singleton three or five with West, and East later scores the eight.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams out

After a marathon eight draws, Michael Adams lost the ninth game to Viswanathan Anand in the Fide championship in Groningen. Anand will play Anatoly Karpov in the final, which starts on January 1.

Hastings tournament

Britain's strongest tournament, the Hastings Premier, is under way at the Cinque Ports Hotel, Hastings. The first round saw wins by grandmasters Plaskett, Hebden and Sadler.

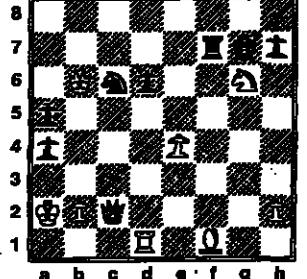
White: Eloi Relange
Black: Matthew Sadler
Hastings Premier
December 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	e6
6 Bg5	e5
7 f4	Be7
8 Qf3	Qc7
9 g4	b5
10 h4	Nb6
11 Bxf6	Nd7
12 g5	Bg5+
13 f5	Ne5
14 Kf1	Kf8
15 Qh5	Qd8
16 Nxe6	Bxe6
17 Ne5	0-0
18 Rg1	Bf6
19 e5+	Kf8
20 Nc5	Rd7
21 Qh5	Qd7
22 N4	Qc7
23 Qd3	Qc8
24 Bf3	Bg7
25 Rg1	Rf8
26 Ne6	Rd1
27 Bx1	Rf2
28 N4	Qd4
29 Qd8+	Bf8
30 Ne8	Qxe2+
31 Kx2	Nd5
32 Ng6+	Kg7
33 Qc7+	Rf7
34 Qb6	a5

White resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Luke McShane
Black: Mark Hebden
Hastings Premier
December 1997

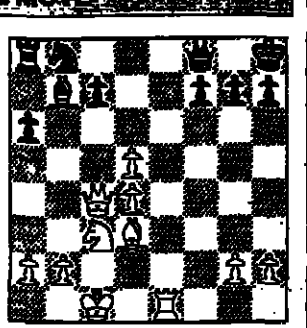
Ruy Lopez

1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bb5	a6
4 Bxc6	Nf6
5 0-0	Be7
6 Re1	b6
7 Bb3	0-0
8 d4	d6
9 c3	Bg4
10 Qd2	Na5
11 Bc2	Qc8
12 Ng5	Bd7
13 Nbd2	c5
14 Bc3	Nc6
15 Qd3	Qc8
16 Bb2	Nd8
17 Bb3	Ne6
18 Qd4	Qb7
19 a3	Rac8
20 Rf1	Nf4
21 Bb1	Rf8
22 c5	dxc5
23 bxc5	Bxc5
24 Bxe6	Nf5
25 Bc2	Bc2+
26 Kd2	Rac7
27 Bf7+	Ke7
28 Qb3+	Be6
29 Ng5+	Qb6
30 Nxe6	Qd6
31 Bf4	Qc7
32 Rf1	Qc3
33 Nf3	Nc3+
34 Kc3	Nc1
35 Nc1	Ng3

White resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

ING MOVE



White to play. This position is from the game Morphy — Mongredien, Paris, 1858. Black is a pawn down, but a more worrying feature of the position from his point of view is his lack of development. How did this now tell against him?

Solution on page 42

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SENESCHAL

- a. A diamond cluster
- b. An early flush toilet
- c. A major domo

SLEIPNER

- a. A mythical horse
- b. A Mozart symphony
- c. An aircraft engine

SELVYT

- a. A duster
- b. Small freshwater fish
- c. A table ornament

LAGAPOUS

- a. Detritus
- b. Footlike
- c. Non-alcoholic

Answers on page 42

Selectors swiftly revert to fartism

I have thought long and hard about the reasons for demotion of Adam Holoake from the position of captain of the England one-day cricket team and I think I have cracked it. It is because the selectors are old farts.

The term, a useful one in all walks of life, acquired a certain dubious respectability — at any rate, a publishability — after Will Carling's throw-away description of the men at the top of his own sport of rugby union: the famous 57 old farts.

The Holoake decision was made by three selectors. The first is David Graveney, whom I am inclined to let off. The other two are Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch. Mr Gooch, Mr Gatting: j'accuse. You — former rebels both, former new brooms, men formerly dedicated to changing the face of English cricket — are a pair of old farts.

It doesn't take long, does it? Gooch stopped playing last summer. Gatting is still playing, but scratch a man dressed in a little brief authority and you lay bare the fart beneath.

At the last World Cup, England showed that they were probably the worst one-day international side in the world and certainly the least up-to-date. My old friend, Matthew Engel, picking his words with the precision that befits the editor of *Wisden*, said that the England team was like "a bad-tempered grandmother attending a teenage rave".

The end-of-term report said: "Must do better." Which involves taking one-day cricket with the seriousness of pur-

'Mr Gooch and Mr Gatting, j'accuse'

pose that is appropriate to international sport. Which means changing your way of thinking.

And, glory be, England actually did it. After years of turning down invitations to play in "spurious" one-day tournaments in Sharjah, England accepted one. They sent out a team of one-day specialists under a groovy young captain who revels in that form of the game.

Holoake did all that was required and more. For a moment, it seemed like the dawning of the age of post-fartism. The team went out full

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

of bounce and came back veritable Tiggers. It would be daft to get over-excited about all this, but a team can do no more than win every match. It was an uncharacteristically bold experiment, taken in the absence of Michael Atherton, who had declared himself unavailable, and it worked.

One gets used to unusual behaviour from all sporting administrators, England cricket selectors in particular, but to have the courage to try an experiment, to have the good fortune to see it work and then to chuck it out and go

back to the old way — this flies in the face of logic. How many times have Gooch and Gatting bewailed selectorial lunacy? Yet now they are perpetrating the same behaviour, consistent to nothing but the ancient precepts of fartism.

Holoake in the role of England one-day captain was shown, prima facie, to be a good thing. So, after going to trouble and expense of finding this out, they have relegated him to vice-captain. There are good leaders and good No 2s and rarely are they the same

person. Message to all cricketers: do everything we ask and more, and you'll surely be demoted.

Why have they done this? Because separate captains for one-day cricket and for Test cricket is Simply Not Done. It is not so much that it undermines the captain as the fact that it undermines the notion of captaincy.

Shakespeare's plays ring with the respect for the mystical state of kingship. A king is a man who is, indeed, in office by divine right and to de-throne him is a kind of blasphemy. Gooch and Gatting,

former England captains, believe that the same thing is true of captaincy.

This is pure fartism. When they were hot and rebellious young things, their respect for authority was less marked. Gatting caused a diplomatic incident and then a sleazy scandal. Both men betrayed world cricket, and much else besides, by taking part in rebel tours to South Africa.

Both have been wonderful cricketers, but that is not in the area of dispute. Both are men of admirable qualities, but

'Sport has revealed their flaws and virtues'

sport, as always, has revealed their flaws and their virtues together. The point is not so much their personal failings as the speed with which Young Turks become old farts.

Gooch and Gatting were selected as selectors because they were in touch: younger than is traditional for the job and, indeed, actually playing. They brought vibrant new thinking to the job too, with the Holoake experiment. But they lost their nerve. It seemed that the winds of change were blowing, but no. Fartism is dead: long live fartism.

Lupine resourcefulness

The Wildlife Specials Wolf

BBC1, 7.35pm

The wolf may be the ancestor of our domestic dog but we have never treated it as a pet. On the contrary we have done our best to banish it to the remotest corners of the globe. This presents a formidable challenge to wildlife film-makers. But they are as resilient a breed as the wolf itself, and to get footage for this documentary Jeff Turner spent seven months a year, for three years, camping out in Canadian temperatures many degrees below zero. Nobody will say it was not worth it, especially after they have seen the sequence in which a pack of wolves eye up a herd of buffalo many times their size with a view to a filling meal. But there are wolves nearer home. In Transylvania, *Dracula* country, they are filmed leaving their forest habitat for the nearest town to scavenge, just like urban foxes, in the dustbins.

Cold Enough for Snow

BBC1, 9.00pm (Not Scotland)

This is a sequel to the marvelous *Estimote Day*. Jack Rosenthal's funny and perceptive study of two chalk-and-cheese families trying to get their return on *Estimote* moves on to the anguish of the A levels and the wrench of the young people leaving home, though their university destination is not Cambridge but Exeter. Rosenthal's social observation is again spot-on and his exploration of what parents go through when their children leave the nest will strike many a chord. The fine cast returns en bloc. Tom Williams and Anna Carteret play the well-heeled Lloyds, with David Ross and Maureen Lipman as the working-class Whitlakes and Laura Howard and Benedict Sandford as the fussed-out students. The episodic structure means a leisurely pace but as in *Estimote Day* the punchline is completely unexpected.

Growing Up With 4: Max Headroom

Channel 4, 9.00pm

No retrospective of Channel 4's first 15 years would be complete without one of its most original creations. *Max Headroom* was the computer-generated television presenter named after the sign in car parks. Real TV hosts are no doubt relieved



Maureen Lipman stars (BBC1, 9.00pm)

that the idea has not caught on but *Max* was big in his time, introducing a pop video series, featuring in commercials and even topping a popularity poll. He was also a favourite of Jeremy Isaacs, Channel 4's first chief executive, who chose him for the *Growing Up With 4* season. The emergence of *Max* was charted in this 1985 film, about a television station whose star reporter gets too near the truth about its dodgy dealings. In a superbly inventive piece of science fiction, the reporter's brain is used to create *Max*. But he proves to be less malleable than his masters had hoped.

The Unique Dave Allen

BBC1, 10.30pm

When is a repeat not quite a repeat? When it is, Dave Allen introducing clips from his old BBC shows. Not that the project is not entirely welcome. Apart from an ITV series distinguished more by smut than wit, Allen has not been on the small screen much recently and although unique is a huge claim there has never been a funnier or more shaggy dog story and he has the Irishman's knack of being about religion without ever quite crossing into blasphemy. We tend to remember Allen on his stool, cigarette and whisky at the ready, but this series draws more on his sketches and stand-up routines. The first programme concentrates on Christmas, with Allen's links offering memories of Christmas past. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Britannia

Radio 2, 7.00pm

One of my few rules in this space is that I do not insult readers by telling them which radio network, if any, they ought to be tuned in to at midnight on New Year's Eve, not least because I know there are plenty of people who do not bother to stay up for the chiming. But there are plenty of people who stay in and *Britannia* is as entertaining and informative a nostalgia trip as one could imagine for this particular evening. Rear Admiral Sir Robert Woodward, Flag Officer Royal Yachts for five years until 1995, presents this two-part, which begins tonight with the building of *Britannia* on the Clyde to a design. I was surprised to learn, based on a cross-Channel ferry of the time, but what an elegant vessel was to emerge.

Under The Influence

BBC1, 10.00pm

One of the reasons for highlighting this programme is to demonstrate that anyone who thinks schedulers are devoid of a sense of humour, has got it wrong. There is no way that this programme can help people who will have a hangover tomorrow morning because by 10pm tonight they will be beyond taking in serious information. So it must be scheduled for the teetotal household who like to have a few facts to back up their I-told-you-so sneers aimed at less restrained family members in the morning. Whatever, Stuart Macdonald has dug up just about everything you could ever wish to know about alcohol, including — nay, especially — cures for a hangover. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

8.00am Chris Moyles 10.00 Mark Goodier 12.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00 UK Top 40 1997 7.00 Pat Torgin's Eclectic Selection 10.00 New Year Countdown, including Dave Pearce live from Glasgow and at 12.30am Pete Tong at the Ministry of Sound in London

RADIO 2

8.00am Richard Ainsworth 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Alan Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 6.00 Rockin' All Over the World: Status Quo Story 7.00 Britannia Sea Chicks 8.00 The Furry Business 9.00 The People's Choice 10.00 A New Year's Eve to Remember 11.45 Steve Madden 3.00am Patrick Lint

RADIO 5 LIVE

8.00am Murray Walker's Grand Prix World (r) 8.30 The Beatles Programme 9.00 Nasty Campbell 11.30 The Celtic Tiger 12.00 Midday with Meir 2.00pm News on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Politician, the Actress and the Bishop (r) 8.00 Any Sporting Questions 10.00 Under the Influence. See Choices 11.00 News Extra 11.30 The Celtic Tiger (r) 11.45 After Hours 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night 2.00 Up All Night 5.00 Under the Influence (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 (FM) Robin Banks 1.00pm (FM) Nick Hobbs (BBC) Nicky Horse 4.00 Mark Forster 7.00 (FM) Pat Coyne (MW) Carmel Jones 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

8.30am Pat Ross & Carol McCall 9.00 Peter Dinkley 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Mimi Dickson 4.00 Kate Lloyd & Ben Overton 7.00 Sport Review 10.00 James Walsh 3.00am Mark Smith

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Mozart (Missa Solemnis in C, K357) 9.00 Morning Collection, presented by Penny Gore 10.00 Musical Encounters, with John Tost, Rossini (Overture Orléans); Bernstein (Czech Rhapsody); Mozart (Piano Sonata in A minor, K510) 12.00 Composers of the Week: Twentieth-Century American Song, with Brian Morton 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A performance by the Ensemble Quatuor, with Robert Schenck, cellist; Schubert (String Quartet in C) (r) 2.00 Midweek Concert, with Susan Sharpe 4.00 Choral Evensong, from Westminster Abbey 5.00 The Changing Orchestra. Michael Hall explores the changing sound of the recorded orchestra 6.00 Soft Resoundings. Humphrey Carpenter introduces memorable encounters with Solti 7.00 Performance on 3. A concert given last month at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the London Jazz Festival. Fred Hersch, piano, Cynthia Clay, soprano, Jake Gardner, baritone, BBC Concert

Orchestra under Robert Ziegler. Tchaikovsky arr. Elgar/Stravinsky (Overture, The Nutcracker); Elgar (Three Pieces from The River), Elly Strayhorn, arr. Hersch (Three Songs); Wilhelm Gross (Piano Sonata); Elgar (New World A-coming); Anthony Davis (Notes from the Underground); Elgar (Pavane) 8.40 Postscript: Ageless Tastes (3/5) 9.00 Ensemble. Haydn (String Quartet in D), Debussy (String Quartet in G minor) 9.50 The Shellac Show, with Jeremy Nicholas includes Louis Kertzer playing Constant Lambert's arrangement of Liszt's Dante sonata 10.45 Composers of the Week: British Light Music 11.45 Jazz Meets New Year Party. Dobby Fairweather is joined at the Bull's Head in Battersea by the London's most famous jazz venues, by the dynamic band Sax Appeal and the occasional prior to see in the new year 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 Facts and Fancies 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Encounters with the Times columnist Libby Purves and her guests in Scotland 10.00 (FM) News: The Garden (3/4) 10.10 (LW) News: Daily Service 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 American Pleasures (3/5) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with John Waite 12.25pm Little Novels: Mr Policeman and the Cook. A mystery by Wilkie Collins 12.55 Weather 1.00 World of One, with James Cox 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: From the Bottom of a Well, by Claire Dowie. The story of a man's obsession 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with David Brierley 4.05 Kaleidoscope Feature: Rocket Man and the Chipolata Fingers. Paul Gambaccini talks to Elton John about his 30-year career (r)

5.00 PM 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.58 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Masterplan (r) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Facts and Fancies. A new series with John Waite 7.45 Correspondents 8.45 How Music Changes Can the World. The first of a new series exploring the influence of music 8.50 The Pledge Papers (3/5) (r) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight Special: Bookends 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Playback (3/10) 11.00 The (Almost) Accidental Adventures of Bell and Todd. John Grogan's comedy (3/5) 11.15 TV Dinner: The Happiest Days of Your Life. A starry comic tale by Keith LaSalle (3/6) 11.30 John Shuttleworth lives in his Sheffield home. Written and performed by Graham Fellows 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book — Ghost Stories: A School Story, by M.R. James. Two corpses are dragged from a deep well (3/5) (r) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.8-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 608. WORLD SERVICE. MW 649; LW 188 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John Maclean.



No prizes for finishing second in Bormio, but Franz, runner-up in six downhills, has his eye on a place in the Austria team for the Olympic Games

Schifferer leads the Austrian charge

ANDREAS SCHIFFERER won his second men's downhill of the season in Bormio, Italy, yesterday and deposed Hermann Maier, his fellow Austrian and the overall World Cup leader, at the top of the downhill standings.

Schifferer, the winner at Beaver Creek in the United States this month and second in a downhill in Bormio on Monday, covered the icy Stelvio piste in 2min 1.44sec. The fifth to start, he made errors on the upper part of the

piste, but skied an aggressive second half. He then watched skier eclipse his halfway split time before fading nearer the finish.

"I spent a long time suffering at the bottom of the mountain because I made a bit of a mess of the first part of the race," he said. "I was convinced Maier would beat me, but it seems he had some problems too. I was more relaxed today than yesterday

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

and that, along with a bit of luck, made the difference. It's a great way to finish the year." Werner Franz, also of Austria, was second in 2min 1.62sec. He has now finished second in six World Cup downhills, but has yet to win one. "That doesn't bother me too much as at the moment," he said. "Consistency is the important thing. We're all looking for places in the Olympic team." Lasse Kjus, of Norway, was third in 2min 2.10sec.

Maier, the revelation of the Alpine World Cup this season, missed out on the podium for only the second time in nine consecutive giant slalom, super-giant slalom and downhill races. The 25-year-old racer from Flachau, who beat Schifferer to claim his first World Cup downhill victory on Monday, finished fourth in 2min 2.19sec. "I'm just happy to have survived today," he

said. "I'm going to go home for New Year, host a big party and hope 1998 starts as well as 1997 has ended."

Maier still heads the overall World Cup standings with 639 points. Schifferer moves up to third on 401 points. Three other Austrians — Hannes Trinkl, Stefan Eberharter and Roland Assinger — also finished in the top ten, but Josef and Fritz Strobl (no relation) failed to finish.

Bruno Kern, of Switzerland, showed a glimmer of the form that took him to the world championship downhill title a year ago, finishing sixth in 2min 2.52sec. "It's good to be back at last," he said. "I've had a difficult season so far." Kristian Ghedina, of Italy, winner of the first race of the season at Beaver Creek, disappointed thousands of home supporters who lined the piste in brilliant sunshine, by skiing a wayward 2min 3.59sec to finish sixteenth.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	35	80 good varied (Very good skiing on upper slopes)	fair	fair	1 27/12
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	10	80 good powder worn (Great skiing on upper slopes)	sun	-	1 28/12
Obertauern	90	140 good powder (Excellent skiing conditions: clear weather)	good	fair	-6 29/12
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	59	130 good varied (Very good skiing to be found, few bare patches)	fair	cloud	2 27/12
Falme	55	145 good powder (Fantastic skiing on well-prepared slopes)	good	fair	4 27/12
Méribel	58	72 good powder (Good skiing, particularly on Mont Vallon)	fair	fair	-5 28/12
ITALY					
Livigno	65	116 good powder (Mostly excellent piste skiing throughout resort)	good	fair	-4 26/12
SWITZERLAND					
C Montana	5	90 hard varied (Great skiing on upper runs 115cm snow at 3,000m)	fair	sun	-2 27/12
Mürren	80	110 good powder (Very good skiing, especially on the Schilthorn)	fair	cloud	1 28/12
Saas Fee	40	170 good varied (Great skiing on upper runs 15cm snow at 2,500m)	sun	-	-3 28/12

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain

L - lower slopes; U - upper

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مكتبة النور

الحزام; الأصم

TENNIS 36

British game set to benefit from rising stars



Finney, knighted

By MEL WEBB

TOM FINNEY, one of the best players in the history of English football, heads the roll of British sportsmen and women receiving awards in the New Year's Honours List.

Finney, who is knighted, is joined by three others from the world of football, while there are also honours for leading figures in racing, rugby union, athletics, golf, cricket, netball and swimming.

At the age of 75, Finney is the third former player, after Bobby Charlton and Stanley Matthews, to be knighted for his playing achievements.

Known as the Preston Plumber, Finney played 76 times for England, scoring 30 goals. Primarily a right-winger but versatile enough to play anywhere in the forward line, he joined the groundstaff at Preston North End at the age of 16 and stayed at the club throughout a distinguished 22-year career. He is the club's life president.

"I'm delighted and thrilled," he said yesterday. "It's a great way to start the new year." Charlton was generous in his praise for one of his England predecessors. "It's just marvellous," he said. "He's a great man who has

contributed so much to football. I couldn't be more pleased."

Derek Shaw, the deputy chairman of Preston, spoke for the club and the whole of the Lancashire town. "It's news that the people of Preston have been waiting for for many a year," he said.

Football's three other honours go to Mark Hughes, the Chelsea and Wales forward, Jim Leighton, the veteran Scotland goalkeeper, and Dario Gradi, the long-serving manager of Crewe Alexandra. They are all appointed MBE. Few in football deserve recognition more than Hughes,

who has won four winners' medals in FA Cup Finals. When he was in his pomp in the late Eighties and early Nineties, the would have been an automatic selection for more highly-rated international teams than Wales.

Martin Johnson, who captained the first British Isles rugby union team to win a series in South Africa for 23 years, is joined by Jack Rowell, the former England coach, in being appointed OBE. "I am surprised and delighted to be honoured," Johnson said. "If I had been told at the start of 1997 that so much would happen to me

during the year, I would not have believed it. My award represents a huge tribute to my Lions colleagues' performances."

Rowell, a hugely successful coach for two decades, admitted to having a tear in his eye when told of his award. He became England coach in 1994 after guiding Bath to five league titles and eight cup triumphs and led the national side to the grand slam in 1995 and the triple crown and the five nations' championship the following year.

Appearances in six Olympic Games from 1976 to 1996 made Tessa Sanderson, an

CRICKET 38

Edwards looks back on world cup that marked coming of age



Finney enlarges famous company of wingers

Toothless Northampton pay penalty for making too many mistakes

Bath throw off vulnerable air to triumph

Bath.....26
Northampton.....3

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

BATH ended a year that they would rather forget with a scrappy and, for the most part, unmemorable encounter with Northampton at the Recreation Ground yesterday. However, tries from Earnshaw and Nicol in the last 11 minutes not only relieved the tedium but suggested that Bath might yet recover more than their pride before the season is out.

The Heineken Cup final against Brive, of course, still beckons after 12 months in which Bath have lost not only their director of rugby, head coach and all their silverware, but also the aura of invincibility that had carried them so far for so long.

They were again vulnerable for an even first 60 minutes against a pretty toothless Northampton side before Callard kicked his fourth penalty goal to give Bath a nine-point cushion. Then, with

Perry and Peters on for Butland and Webster and Catt moving to fly half, Bath found another gear to ensure them of their fifth league win of the season. More importantly, it took them into the upper echelons of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division for the first time in this campaign.

It had all begun so unpromisingly with almost nothing to commend the first 40 minutes. Paul Grayson pulled an early penalty goal attempt wide of the posts for Northampton, but scoring opportunities were otherwise in short supply. Grayson finally got things moving after 30 minutes when Bath were judged guilty of pushing in a lineout.

The score appeared to galvanise Bath and, after their most coherent attack of the half, Callard kicked a simple penalty to level the scores. He gave Bath a 6-3 interval lead after Northey had been penalised for obstruction and shown a yellow card for subsequent dissent. It was a refereeing decision with which Bath might have also dis-

agreed, given that Thorneycroft's clearance kick had fallen on to Adebayo with the line at his mercy when the referee's whistle blew.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, and Jack Rowell, his immediate predecessor, were both looking on from the stand as Bath began with Butland at fly half, Catt in the centre and Perry on the bench. It was no coincidence that Bath's victory dash began when Perry came on and Catt moved to No 10.

Earnshaw's try, though, owed much to the speed of Dan Lyle, who collected Townsend's attempted clearance and then tore through the heart of the Northampton defence. The American's overhead inside pass reached Callard, who found Earnshaw and the Cambridge Blue scored his fourth try in nine starts since joining Bath. Callard converted. Andy Long came on for Mark Regan at hooker, then Perry broke out of his own 22 and Earnshaw was again on hand, this time to supply the pass to put Nicol in under the posts.

"We made too many mistakes at the wrong times when the key points were on offer in the first 50 minutes," Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said afterwards. "You don't do that down here. It was letting that nine-point gap open up that changed it."

Andy Robinson, his opposite number, was impressed with his team's superior fitness and improved ball retention in the last quarter. "As soon as we kept the ball, we put a bit of pattern on the game," he said.

SCORES: Bath: Try: Earnshaw (60m), Nicol (70), Conversion: Callard (2), Penalty: Callard (4), (25, 40, 44, 61). Northampton: Penalty: Grayson (31). **SCORING:** SEQUENCE (team first): 9-3, 3-3, 6-3 (full-time), 9-3, 12-3, 19-3, 26-3. **BATH:** Callard (1), Evans, P. de Garivault (two), M. Kayson, Elliott, M. Catt, A. Adebayo, R. Butland, A. Nicol, K. Yates (five), J. Malet, (25-40), M. Regan (two), A. Long, (55), V. Ugozie (two), M. Lyle, (10-14), G. Lomas, N. Fackrell, R. Earnshaw, R. Webster (two), E. Peters, (50), D. Lyle (two), R. Palmer, (74). **NORTHAMPTON:** J. Bell, J. Sleight, G. Townsend, A. Northey, H. Thorneycroft, P. Simpson (two), J. Hunter, (22), J. Borthwick, G. Paget, A. Charles, M. Stewart (two), M. Volland, (55), J. Phillips, J. Chandler, O. Mackinnon (two), G. Beely, (58), A. Fourman, T. Fletcher. Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester).



Chandler, the Northampton lock, tries to maintain balance as he wins a lineout

Two-man farce enjoys short run

David Powell reports on moves to end head-to-head competition in athletics

THIS being the pantomime season, what better time to recall sport's best farce of 1997? *The Dumbing Down of Athletics*, starring Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey, ran for one evening. Never to be repeated or imitated.

Bailey and Johnson raced head-to-head over 150 metres at the Toronto SkyDome in June in an attempt to show who was the world's fastest man. The image of the sport took such a beating, though—oh, yes it did—that the curtains have been drawn on future productions.

One-to-one competition is to be outlawed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Giorgio Reineri, the IAAF head of public relations, said yesterday that the world governing body would in future enforce a law insisting that no races would be allowed with fewer than three athletes.

"The IAAF will not give permission for this kind of competition," Reineri said.

"We have to save the spirit of competition and that means three or more athletes," Johnson pulled up injured before halfway. Bailey accused him of feigning injury and the two men fell out. Meanwhile, Ray Flynn, Bailey's manager, talked of a rematch in the United States.

\$300,000, with an additional \$1 million for the winner. Johnson pulled up injured before halfway. Bailey accused him of feigning injury and the two men fell out. Meanwhile, Ray Flynn, Bailey's manager, talked of a rematch in the United States.

On the same weekend, Haile Gebrselassie, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion from Ethiopia, and Noureddine Morceli, the 1500 metres Olympic champion from Algeria, met in Hengelo, Holland. They were drawn together by a \$1 million pot for the man who could break eight minutes for two miles.

Promoted on a ticket of seeing one man run two four-minute miles without stopping, athletics now had the eyes of the world upon it. But the script went horribly wrong.

The Hengelo race failed, like Toronto, to live up to its billing. The \$1 million jackpot went unclaimed and Morceli did not even finish. However, at least with an 11-man field, the sport's laws were adhered to and Gebrselassie ran the fastest two miles in history, 8min 1.05sec.

Ironically, Daniel Komen, of Kenya, broke the barrier without fuss seven weeks later, recording 7:58.61 in Hechtel, Belgium.



Bailey looks back at Johnson in their Toronto clash, the like of which the IAAF will no longer allow

Shearer on fast track to return within a month

By DAVID MADDOCK

ALAN SHEARER has made a remarkable recovery from the ankle injury that threatened his career. The Newcastle United and England forward's return to fitness is so far ahead of schedule that he could be playing again by the end of next month, according to sources at St James' Park.

Shearer has settled into a twice-daily training routine, working out with the first team squad at Newcastle's Durham training camp in the morning and then having a strenuous private session at a local gym in the afternoon.

The results have astounded the doctors who have helped ease him back towards fitness. They feared originally for his career and that, if he played again, it would not be until March at the earliest.

Shearer ruptured ankle ligaments and broke a bone in his shin during a pre-season tournament at Goodison Park last July. A similar ankle injury kept Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea and former Blackburn Rovers defender, out of the game for a year, but Shearer appears to have defied medical logic.

He has pencilled in two possible cup dates at the end of next month: an FA Cup fourth-round tie on January 24—should Newcastle beat Everton in the third round on Sunday—and the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final on January 28—if Newcastle overcome Liverpool in the quarter-final next week.

Shearer has twice returned a month quicker than predicted after groin operations and also recovered two months ahead of schedule after a cruciate ligament operation.

The news will be welcomed by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who appointed Shearer captain this year. He has devised a playing system for the World Cup finals in June that revolves around the forward's strong-running style.

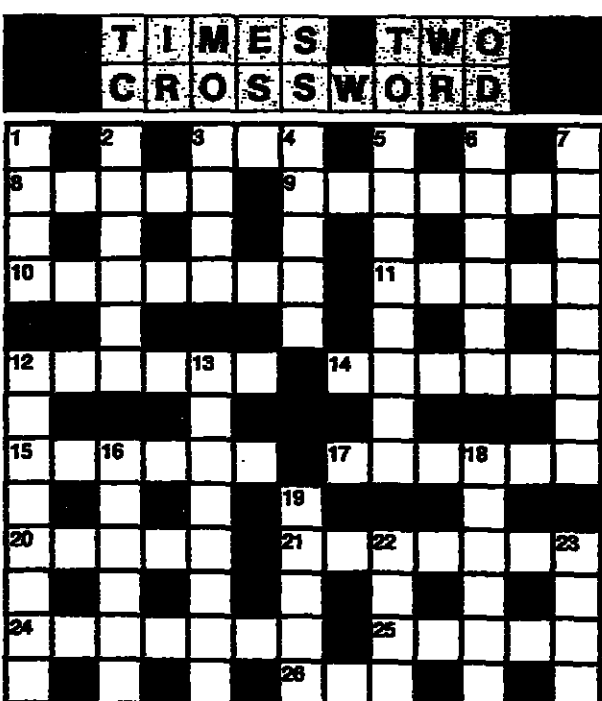
Emerson, the Middlesbrough midfielder player, contacted his club yesterday to admit that he had no intention of returning from his native Brazil. The midfielder player was allowed to travel home for Christmas, but he failed to show for a Nationwide League first division game against Stockport County.

Yesterday, Keith Lamb, the club's chief executive, confirmed that Emerson would not be seen at the Riverside again. "Emerson rang to say that he would never come back to Middlesbrough," Lamb said. "If that is his attitude, then fine, we will not concern ourselves with a player who does not want to play for the club."

The Brazilian is hoping for a move to Tenerife. The Spanish club made an inquiry for him before Christmas. Middlesbrough will allow him to leave for a fee of £5 million.

Everton completed the free transfer of Mickael Madar, the France international, yesterday from Deportivo La Coruña, of Spain.

Moore's mission, page 41



No 1290

ACROSS

- 3 Enamoured bird (5)
9 Jewelled headpiece (5)
9 Stir up, make anxious (7)
10 Loss of wit (7)
11 Increased (5)
12 Brigand (5)
14 Lowest parts (of egg sea) (6)
15 Cite (as example) (6)
17 Jail (6)
20 Jeans cloth (5)
21 Got thinner towards end (7)
24 Academic class (7)
25 Forearm joint (5)
26 Act as crew of (3)

DOWN

- 1 Restrain; word root (4)
2 Excuse (6)
3 Sport contest; rapid current (4)
4 Motive; lawsuit (5)
5 Shak, tragedy (4,4)
6 Go to restaurant; each (3,3)
7 *Idylls of the King* poet (5)
12 Wave threateningly (5)
13 Arriving; new (eg government) (5)
16 Generation; energetic person (6)
18 Belgrade its capital (6)
19 Tempest (5)
22 Chessman; dupe (4)
23 Responsibility; tax (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1289

- ACROSS: 1 Candid 5 Juggle 8 Jamb 9 Sideline
10 Pergola 11 Bland 13 Rock the boat 16 Slide
18 Obscure 21 Bracelet 22 Vain 23 Marlow 24 Marley
DOWN: 2 Amateur 3 Debut 4 Desolate 5 Jude
6 Galileo 7 Lenin 12 Verbatim 14 Codicil 15 Terrace
17 Larva 19 Cover 20 Claw

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE
The Times Crossword Book 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 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